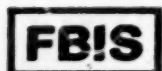


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LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2759

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STATUS OF HAITIANS WORKING IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 17 Sep 83 p 17

[Text] An investigating committee has just published its conclusions regarding conditions of Haitian workers cutting sugar cane in the Dominican Republic.¹

The committee was appointed by the ILO administrative council in March 1982 to examine several complaints that the Dominican Republic and Haiti do not observe ILO agreements relative to hard labor (numbers 29 and 105) and to union freedom and collective bargaining (numbers 87 and 98). The complaints were presented in 1981 by worker delegates to the International Labor Conference from Guyana, Upper Volta, Rwanda and the Central African Republic. The committee was also requested to look into observance of the agreement on wage protection by the Dominican Republic (number 95), 1949.

The committee consisted of Jose Maria Ruda (Argentina), judge of the International Court of Justice, chairman; Sir William Douglas, chairman of the Supreme Court of Justice of Barbados; and Jean Castella (France), former director of labor questions in the Ministry of Agriculture.

Proceedings

After requesting the parties concerned and several governments as well as intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations to forward additional data, the committee held hearings of witnesses in Geneva in October 1982. The committee visited both countries in January 1983, with a stopover of 10 days in the Dominican Republic and 3 days in Haiti. In the Dominican Republic it had meetings with several ministers and official departments, managements of state-run and private mills, labor organizations and with the Employers' Association, and visited 5 of the 12 state-run and 2 privately owned mills. At the [sugar] mills talks were held with numerous Haitian workers. In its report the committee expressed gratitude for the facilities provided it by Dominican officials so that it could proceed with investigation in complete freedom.

In Haiti the committee held a meeting with government representatives, visited several areas in which workers in the Dominican sugar industry are recruited, and talked with many people in the capital. The committee stated that it was

upset over the attitude shown by the Ministry of Social Affairs which was of no help in its investigations. The committee noted that, on several significant questions, the ministry's replies did not show sufficient concern for the protection of Haitian citizens working in the Dominican Republic, or were evasive. On one vital question relative to payments received by the government of Haiti for recruitment of its workers, the Ministry refused to reply.

Committee Conclusions and Recommendations

The committee noted that each year a contract is signed between the State Sugar Council of the Dominican Republic and the government of Haiti for recruiting workers in latter country for the sugar industry. Currently there are 19,000 workers recruited to work in it. The committee proved that those workers seek employment voluntarily. Many return several times. Although many recruited workers seen during the visits to the mills had numerous complaints, they explained that they went there to work because their living conditions were even worse in Haiti. However, workers are kept in ignorance about their employment conditions. The annual contracts which set these conditions are not published nor are they made available to the workers, union organizations or other individuals concerned. The committee expressed doubts that the workers had actually given their approval to a contract whose terms were unknown to them and was described by the Haitian ministry as a collective contract concluded by the government in their name.

The committee found that recruited workers are required to remain at the mill to which they have been assigned for the entire sugar harvest which lasts 6 or 7 months and that if they try to leave they can be arrested and forced to return to their place of employment. The committee stated that this practice is contrary to the agreement on abolition of forced labor which prohibits the use of any form of forced labor as a disciplinary measure. The committee proved that not only the government of the Dominican Republic but also the government of Haiti had failed to guarantee the actual implementation of this agreement by being associated in the application of measures imposing such restrictions, by not protecting their citizens and by profiting from the situation. The committee noted that the government of Haiti had received more than \$2 million from the United States for recruiting expenditures. The committee proved that this amount significantly exceeds actual expenditures and constitutes compensation for allowing the hiring of Haitian workers. In addition to the annual contingent of workers recruited based on official agreements, an approximately equal number crosses the border each year to look for work in the sugar industry. The committee proved that the armed forces of the Dominican Republic play an active role in locating and arresting such illegal immigrants so as to take them to work at the mills. Such workers have illegal immigrant status, they are not permitted to leave the mill and can be arrested if they try to do so. The committee stated that this situation is contrary to the agreements on forced labor.

There is a large Haitian population, estimated at between 200,000 and a half-million people living in the Dominican Republic, many of them at the mills. The committee was informed that only 10,000 had legal residence while the remainder, including individuals born in the Dominican Republic of Haitian

parents who had been unable to obtain identity documents, held illegal immigrant status. The committee was informed that they were left alone if they remained at the mills but that immigration officials would intervene to have them arrested and deported whenever they went elsewhere and took jobs away from Dominican workers. The committee received reports also that Haitian workers who had gone to work in other farming areas had been arrested and forced to return to the mills at sugar harvest time. The committee noted that the practice adopted by Dominican officials of tolerating the stay of Haitian workers at the mills because their work there was essential, but reserving the right to invoke their illegal immigrant status if they left the plants and making them return under threat of deportation had the effect of binding the workers to the land and forcing them to perform, under threat of punishment, a job which they had not been freely offered, which is contrary to the agreement on forced labor.

Regarding Haitian workers at mills in the Dominican Republic being organized into unions, the committee noted that legally they have the same rights as natives and that since 1978 the Dominican Government had maintained a policy of promoting free exercise of union rights. However, a whole series of practical difficulties stand in the way of unionizing the Haitian workers. In the case of workers recruited for the sugar harvest, we may cite the temporary nature of their stay in a foreign country whose language they do not speak, their isolation, lack of knowledge of union activities and low income, as well as restrictions on their freedom of movement, the tight surveillance to which they are subjected and the fear of reprisals when they return to Haiti. In the case of illegal immigrants, such difficulties are made worse by the illegality of their presence in the Dominican Republic. However, the committee proved that in recent years Dominican unions had been able to sign up a growing number of Haitian workers living at the mills. The unions had run into some difficulties. They are not allowed to supervise the weighing of the cane, which determines the pay of the cane cutters. The main difficulty is the insufficient protection against the firing of workers who take part in union activities. The necessity to reinforce the provisions of the labor code on this point has been acknowledged by the government of the Dominican Republic and legislative reform bills with this in mind have been drawn up.

The committee reported on a series of factors related to the legislation and the union situation in Haiti which would appear to enlarge the obstacles for unionization of Haitian workers in the Dominican Republic, but did not consider that there was sufficiently clear evidence to conclude that agents of the government of Haiti are preventing the exercise of those workers' union rights.

Regarding wages, the committee proved that, at least at state-run mills, the income of Haitian cane-cutters in many cases is far below the minimum wage in agriculture, set by law at 3.50 pesos per 8-hour day. The committee noted that, with the exception of one private mill, the workers trade pay vouchers at stores located at the mills with a discount of part of their value which constitutes a practice prohibited by the agreement on wage protection. In addition, until 1980 \$1.00 semimonthly had been deducted from recruited workers' pay. The amounts deducted were paid to the embassy of Haiti to be distributed to the workers on their return to Haiti. The committee confirmed the allegation that the workers did not receive payment of these deferred wages. The

committee also proved that since 1980 at state-run mills and at some privately owned mills between one-fifth and one-fourth of the cane-cutters' wages are withheld and paid them as deferred compensation in accordance with settlements levied on them. The committee considered that this system is contrary to one of the articles of the agreement on wage protection according to which it is supposedly prohibited for employers to limit the freedom of the worker to dispose of his own wages in any way.

The committee proved that in several ways the housing and living conditions of recruited Haitian workers at state-run plants do not comply with standards set in the recruiting contracts and that the operation of the Dominican social security system present serious difficulties. The committee concluded, however, that those matters are outside the purview of the agreements which were the subject of their investigation.

The committee stated that neither the inspection of labor under the Ministry of Labor of the Dominican Republic nor the system of supervisors and inspectors designated by the Haitian embassy in Santo Domingo constituted effective measures for guaranteeing compliance with the agreements in question.

The committee made a broad series of recommendations for eliminating current shortcomings in the application of the agreements under investigation. They include measures designed insofar as possible to establish labor laws at Dominican mills, improve guarantees to workers recruited in Haiti while recruiting is still going on, including the formalizing of a basic interstate agreement, with wide publicity for such an agreement and other conditions as may exist, setting up employment offices in appropriate locations where Haitian workers seeking employment for the cane harvest outside the recruiting agreements might be signed up, eliminating measures which result in restricting workers inside the mills, initiating careful research into how to guarantee that the armed forces and police of the republic act with the strict adherence to the law and refrain from carrying out arbitrary and oppressive acts relative to Haitian residents and to implement a program for regularizing the status of Haitians who have lived and worked in the Dominican Republic for a certain period of time. The committee reported that it is not within the law for a country to hold workers under illegal conditions, whose employment it considers essential to the operation of its economy, especially when they are employed in businesses belonging to the state itself.

Regarding union matters, the main recommendation refers to the adoption by the Dominican Republic of the reforms proposed so as to strengthen guarantees against anti-union discrimination and interference by employers in worker organizations. In addition, a series of recommendations was drawn up targeting the observation of the Dominican minimum wage insofar as it affects mill workers and the correction of practices contrary to the agreement on wage protection. Lastly, the committee suggested the adoption of measures to develop labor inspection services under the Ministry of Labor of the Dominican Republic so as to convert them into an effective instrument for guaranteeing observance of labor legislation and the rights of workers in the mills. The committee suggests that both governments examine the possibility of requesting ILO assistance in implementing its recommendations.

FOOTNOTE

1. Report by the Investigating Committee designated by virtue of article 26 of the constitution of the International Labor Organization to examine observance of certain international labor agreements by the Dominican Republic and Haiti relative to employment of Haitian workers at mills in the Dominican Republic.

9436

CSO: 3248/33

COSTA RICAN-SALVADORAN TRADE PROBLEMS ADDRESSED

Industrialists Take Initiative

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 20 Sep 83 pp 5, 50

[Text] We, industrialists of Costa Rica, realize that the problems of exchange are not created by the companies but that the governments through the agency of the banks, are the ones which are responsible for these problems.

That statement was made by Mrs Virginia Vargas, a businesswoman from Costa Rica who has come with a delegation from that country to discuss the problems of exchange.

That problem has created a delicate climate of distrust among industrialists.

Part of the problem between Costa Rica and El Salvador is the exchange policy, the default in payments and all the rest. This puts us at a disadvantage to compete and we also find that our goods are detained at the customs. Consequently, trade relations deteriorate, she added in an interview with EL DIARIO DE HOY.

"That is why we are here. Our purpose is to prevent this problem from becoming worse. Let us hope that we, industrialists, can explain to our governments that this cannot go on, that they must do something specific about this situation to avoid a further deterioration of the trade between our countries," she noted.

Asked what is the amount of El Salvador's debt to Costa Rica, she said that she did not have specific figures. It appears that some payments have already been made and, as I understand, the debt will be paid up this week. But, apparently, there are problems with long overdue debts.

Devaluation

We asked her how the devaluation of the Costa Rican currency had affected the industrial and commercial sectors.

Mrs Vargas told us that the impact had been very severe but people feel optimistic because the current government has issued much clearer guidelines for the industrialists.

It has established a type of exchange which does not fluctuate. On a short-term basis one can at least project what fluctuations will occur making it easier to manage the economy and deal with the problem of purchases of raw materials. If we continue to face these problems in Central America, the economy will get even worse, she said.

The devaluation of the Costa Rican colon was fairly important. A year ago its exchange rate was slightly more than 60. Right now the free rate of exchange to the dollar stands at 43.

Caribbean Region Plan

Mrs Vargas, who is the manager of a paint company, said that she views the Reagan Plan for the Caribbean Basin as a very positive step to expand the sale of products from that region in U.S. markets.

A lot will depend on our ability to make that plan work. Its benefits offer the immediate possibility of boosting our economy. That is our best short-term strategy. If our countries draw up specific plans offering inducements not only to foreign investors but also to our producers, within a year this can give good results, she added.

On the Political Situation in Central America

The statement issued on 15 September by President Monge, about Costa Rica's neutrality regarding the internal political situation in other countries, mentioned mutual respect for their institutions and absolute nonintervention, Mrs Vargas explained when she was asked to comment on the political situation in that region.

On the subject of the Marxist-Leninist threat that Nicaragua represents for other Central American countries, she said that right now it is quite difficult to analyze the situation in that country. I dare not give a very categorical opinion. But one can see that the assistance given to Nicaragua by the socialist bloc is very real. Expansion is obviously one of the rules of the Marxist-Leninist ideology. But it is very doubtful that Nicaragua has that in mind. We must wait 1 or 2 years to see how the policy of that country evolves. It inherited a depressing economic situation. There was a certain lack of vision on the part of the United States regarding the political changes in Nicaragua, she concluded.

Trade Restrictions Abolished

San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 21 Sep 83 p 41

[Text] "For the time being, we have overcome all the obstacles which prevented Costa Rica and El Salvador from having the type of commercial exchanges that ought to exist between fraternal nations as stipulated by the Central American Common Market."

This is what Odalier Villalobos, Costa Rican deputy minister for economy, told LA PRENSA GRAFICA as he announced that all commercial exchanges between private enterprises [sentence unfinished].

Villalobos pointed out that the agreement reached last night was subject to approval by the Monetary Council of El Salvador which must decide whether it will approve a fair exchange law particularly on the matter of the two-tier dollar exchange rate imposed on Salvadoran importers.

Villalobos said that Costa Rica was at a disadvantage there because importers are offered a rate of exchange of 2.50 to the dollar to purchase new materials but when they make their purchases abroad they are forced to pay according to the two-tier system which obviously affects the Costa Rican market.

The document signed last night sets out the following points:

"1) Immediate elimination of measures restricting the free market currently applied in both countries and a commitment to refrain from adopting any further unilateral measures which may have an unfavorable effect on the flow of trade without engaging in an exhaustive dialogue and searching for joint solutions.

"2) As an exception to the above, the agreed liberalization will apply for a period of 2 months to the goods produced by the companies Sylvania, INPELCA, Kimberly Clark and Scott Paper Co, and these companies agree to regulate their own exports on the basis of their average figures for 1983.

"3) At the request of the Kimberley Clark Company of El Salvador and the Scott Paper Company of Costa Rica, the Central Banks are advised to try to study the compensation of the existing debts arising from imports of Costa Rican goods.

"4) The Costa Rican delegations promises that immediate authorization will be granted to import 1,320 quintals of refined salt from El Salvador and it is agreed that the heads of the Directorates of Integration and salt producers from both countries will hold a joint meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, to study the possibilities of normalizing the flow of trade.

"5) To present to the Salvadoran Monetary Junta for consideration a proposal made by the Costa Rican delegation to study the possibility of applying the official rate of exchange treatment to the following products: lightbulbs, fluorescent tubes, bathroom paper, paper towels, napkins, brushes, fabrics and liqueurs; or else, to apply the two-tier exchange system to the materials used to produce such goods.

"6) The Central Banks of both countries must study the ways of introducing greater flexibility into the payments arising from trade and into pending debts from previous deals, and they must offer alternative solutions.

"7) To convene a meeting of the technical group formed by officials of the Central Banks and of the Directorates of Economic Integration from both countries to study the question of documenting pending private debts and to propose alternative solutions. That meeting will take place in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 13 and 14 October 1983."

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH PERU RENEWED--Alfredo Alaniz, minister of the Nicaraguan Institute of Fisheries, said in Lima, Peru that Nicaragua will resort to every possible means of defense and will, therefore, acquire weapons from any available source in order to meet attacks. Alaniz met in Lima with his counterpart Fortunato Quezada [as heard], with whom he renewed a cooperation agreement on the construction of two fishing boats, and on operations by the Latin American Organization for Developing Fishing. [Text] [PA161424 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 14 Oct 83 PA]

CSO: 3248/89

GABRIEL VALDES ON PROTESTS, GOVERNMENT REACTION

Santiago COSAS in Spanish 8 Sep 83 pp 74-76

[Interview with the head of the Democratic Alliance, Gabriel Valdes Subercaseaux, by Malu Sierra; date and place not specified]

[Text] Everyone claims that the talks between the government and the opposition are proceeding very well. At the second meeting, in the archbishop's residence, which lasted several hours, there was a discussion of the time periods and programs relating to the economy, of the constituent body requested by the Alliance and of the Congress which the government is offering. There was a discussion of the political parties, not a fixed timetable, but one with fast, definite deadlines. Some are working in the Diego Portales building, and at La Moneda, and others are doing so on the streets and squares, with the people.

But on Monday, 5 September, no mention was made of the protest, which is the heated point. Hence, there will not be what the citizens would have liked: a kind of joint control, so that the protest on this Thursday, 8 September, will be really peaceful; with an opposition calling for calmness on radio and television, and requesting that the people adhere to the basic instructions. It will have only a few media to publicize it, thereby appeasing the violence.

In that way, the government's task would have been easier, and the threat of repression (to preserve order) would not be hanging like a sword of Damocles over Chileans.

But the topic of the protest was not on the table for the dialog.

A Difficult Week

For Gabriel Valdes, this is a time of rushing. He no longer has a private life, but is devoted 100 percent to political action, with exhausting itineraries: tours, parades, speeches, interviews, dialog. At his age of 64 he says: "I feel younger than ever since I have been imprisoned." He claims that it was like a purification. "I endured a test that one always fears, and it turns out that many fears are lost therein. I feel stronger, both physically and psychologically."

They say that it is difficult to keep pace with him. He has excellent stamina. They claim that he acquired it when he was an adolescent, traveling every day on a bicycle from the Subercaseaux Plains to his school, San Ignacio [Saint Ignatius]. Moreover, there he was shaped as a "soldier" of Christ.

At present, he realizes that even his life is in jeopardy. He has received countless threats, and an entire campaign of leaflets. He notes that the assassination of General Carol Urzua, "so cruel and reprehensible," is another signal to be cautious. They ask him whether he fears having the fate of Benigno Aquino, the Philippine opposition leader, and he replies: "There are no effective protective measures in a regime of this kind, only openness, democracy per se." And he explains that the best way of defending oneself is by stating one's ideas publicly.

[Question] In other words, the faster democracy is attained...

[Answer] The safer we all shall be.

In a group interview (too much for his taste), Gabriel Valdes discussed in passing many topics: the alleged differences with Andres Zaldivar: "We are personal friends, and there are no differences in ideology. He has a very important role to play and it encourages me that he is back in Chile." He spoke of the transition that they are awaiting; and the future government for Chile; and of the Democratic Alliance in which (he claims) each one defers his ideological concepts to reconstruct a country in which there will be work and peacefulness. He also speaks of the Communist Party, which is always like background music in the criticism that is made of him. "We shall not make pacts with the PC, but it is something else to deny the existence of a political group which has an expression of ideas."

But, most of all, he talked about this heated week during which Chile's destiny could be at stake.

The Protests

[Question] We are in a period of negotiations and the protests are in the background. What would the negotiations have to be like to prevent the country from succumbing to violence or the transition from continuing to mark time also?

[Answer] The fact is that these are very odd negotiations and very difficult to explain: negotiations between those who have total power, announcing that they will make concessions, and those who have nothing to concede, no right to give in exchange. We have nothing to give in exchange, because we are demanding what we should always have had, namely, the right to have an opinion, to speak and to present ourselves to the community so that it may make a choice. We are gradually obtaining some facilities, but no essential thing that would enable us to expand the area of our proposals. To date, in the streets and in the newspapers, obviously, there has been less censorship; but this does not hold true of television, which is very important. We are fighting to obtain space in Chile: a space to sit down and really discuss the country's destiny.

[Question] But in this latest protest, why was it necessary to stake all or nothing? Why couldn't there have been a political truce?

[Answer] Because we believe that the protest is a right, and that it can always be exercised in a democracy or in a dictatorship. And we must make the governments used to hearing rumors of dissatisfaction. This is very important for all governments. There are protests in Europe, in the democracies; there is normally protest in the United States; and here the governments must become used to the fact that a protest is something legitimate. The harder the conditions, the stronger the protest is. Since there are no elections, which are the normal way in which a country expresses its satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the government, and until there are deepseated changes, the protests will continue. We propose and demand that the protests be peaceful.

[Question] But you had something to give...and you did not give it. Why not give up the protest in exchange for real things?

[Answer] Because we have not been given anything real. Furthermore, the protest is made by the people; we do not order it. If, tomorrow, I should call upon the people not to protest, the country would protest all the same. I have no authority either to call for a protest or to stop a protest; I don't think that any political leader can do so. What we are trying to do is channel this unrest through definite actions which are peaceful and which express a desire for change, and which are not a riot nor a violent act. We are quite categorical about that.

[Question] But thus far the peaceful protests have left over 35 deaths, the burning of buses and a wave of repression...

[Answer] We have reiterated the fact that the right to protest is legitimate; any right to protest is legitimate; the abuse of that right is illegitimate, but that does not make the use of the right illegitimate. What is happening in Chile is that there is a violence which is institutionalized from a political standpoint, owing to an oppression that has been experienced and continues to be experienced. There is also an economic violence, because there is an imposed economic model which has caused the present crisis, far beyond the international circumstances. There is a lack of social caution, because the social spending has been reduced; which in the long run causes a feeling of anxiety among the population. That is the violence; removing the lid from that violence could prove catastrophic. We think that the demonstration of reasonable protests, as moderate and domestic as banging pots and pans, is a rational, legitimate way of protesting against that institutionalized violence.

[Question] But that is not the way it is happening...

[Answer] It is not happening that way, and the last time it did not happen that way because of Pinochet's action ordering 18,000 troops, a force superior to the one that the Argentines had in the Malvinas, a war force, with complete

weaponry; which went to the settlements that were in a state of anxiety, and which was a provocation.

[Question] And when calling for the protest again, don't you think that this could be repeated?

[Answer] No, because I believe that the government will be very careful not to repeat the experience. It is to be hoped that it has learned to respect a peaceful action by the people. Insofar as we are concerned, we are ready to make every effort within our power with the facilities at our disposal to remain on peaceful terms.

[Question] You have one viewpoint and the government has a different one. People will to some extent blame the opposition for the possible fatalities as well. You know that women are opposed to the protest; and the Church is also, without saying so. How have you been encouraged to go ahead with it?

[Answer] We are encouraged because we are demanding that our petition be carried out, that those to blame for the violence in the last protest be investigated. We cannot accept the blackmail that would be represented by our having to waive the protest under a threat that it is a violent protest, when we know that the violence is provoked, as it was provoked in the last one. That would mean doom-ing the country forever, and in any event, to submission under threat of violence; to having the government set the times, the measures and the entire political order that it already has for 10 years.

[Question] Don't you fear a completely uncontrollable escalation of violence that would lead us to a situation such as that in Central America?

[Answer] I don't believe that Chile could have the fate of El Salvador; but the fate of El Salvador has not been brought about by protests with pots and pans; but rather by a regime which has not become open, and which has failed politically and economically. That is what happened in El Salvador, ultimately: a small, oligopolic, oligarchic group retained power beyond what the country would tolerate, and the country rose up in arms, and we want to avoid that. Since the process is slow and is being carried out at the pace that the government wants, and it still intends to maintain the deadline of 1989 and to keep the present Constitution, the country cannot fail to protest.

[Question] Francisco Bulnes claims that you, those in the Democratic Alliance, prefer this vague protest so that they won't count you; asking why you didn't hold an organized protest in O'Higgins Park.

[Answer] I don't think that Francisco Bulnes or any of his friends on the right are in a position to give us advice on what we deem feasible; because they have been very content for 10 years under this regime, and now they are starting to give advice on what the opposition should do. We consider it absolutely inconceivable that a demonstration could possibly be held in a location such

as the one you have mentioned, when people do not have the means to pay for their bus. A government could hold a gathering of that type, forcing the people. Right now people are frightened; that is why the protest is being held in the dark, inside houses and by banging pots and pans.

[Question] Bulnes thinks that the reasons for the protest are over...

[Answer] The reasons for the protest are still the same. The fact is that Bulnes is satisfied with the regime, and would like slight changes made. He has had a few differences regarding form, but an authoritarian regime seems good to him. He is not even forming a political party, but rather is making an appeal which, essentially, is one for support to the regime and for keeping it until 1989. We have a radical disagreement, and it is wonderful how dissimilar forces as we have coincided in that disagreement.

The Art of Negotiating

[Question] On a radio program a few days ago you called for "a Jarpa for the Economy Ministry," and it would appear that they have granted you your wish. The interior minister held a meeting with the business owners' associations, and they decided to back the potential program that he offered them. Don't you think that, perhaps, the unions and other sectors of the population will eventually accept the partial changes being offered them by the government?

[Answer] I think that the unions will accept what would represent an improvement in their situation, but a country is not the sum of the unions, nor the sum of all the interests of the trade unions, even though they may all be quite respectable. The country is an integrated whole, it is a complex; and that is why the solution must be complete.

[Question] But if there were real changes and a real spirit of reconciliation, would making the transition with the president of the republic matter very much to you?

[Answer] It would matter a great deal, because there is no indication that this would be possible. He has often talked about the type of democracy that he wants. His entire concept is that of a democracy subjected to military power and to the power of force; and that kind of democracy cannot evolve. I consider it absolutely unthinkable that Pinochet or anyone like him who has held autocratic office in the world can depart from his own style. Furthermore, it is healthy for the country to change; there are no men predestined to rule a country permanently.

[Question] Jarpa is a good politician, and it is right that he should have political intentions for the future. In such an event, would he be a man whom the opposition would accept for the transition?

[Answer] We have no names, nor do I think that the Alliance proposes to direct the transition. What it has proposed is to back directly a transition that is headed by individuals who will offer guarantees that their only purpose as

temporary governors is to lead to what we regard as essential: the preparation of a constituent body that will restore sovereignty to the people so that the rules for coexistence may be established as quickly as possible.

[Question] But if you could select the person for the transition, would you choose Minister Jarpa?

[Answer] I would not choose him; I would choose a person who was unanimously considered outside the process; a person who would evoke immediate acceptance among all sectors.

[Question] Doesn't it seem to you that, as General Pinochet claims, this is really a soft dictatorship?

[Answer] I am against dictatorships and soft dictatorships. The hard kind is more savage, but the soft dictatorship is equally threatening and arbitrary. What matters is putting an end to dictatorship.

[Question] What is happening to the Armed Forces in this entire process? September is their month as well, and it turns out that they are attempting to remove their generalissimo from command...

[Answer] It is regrettable that the same person should be the commander in chief of the Army and the president of the republic. We have no problems with the Armed Forces as such; we respect them and we owe them the deference that befits a national activity that the country has always respected and needs. Our proposal is very clear in the Alliance's document: that the Armed Forces not only have the traditional professional responsibilities, namely those associated with the defense of external sovereignty, but also participate in the process of development and the process of democratization; that they be another guarantee for the intensification and consolidation of democracy. This has been accomplished in Spain, where the Armed Forces have played an essential role in democratization.

[Question] But I ask you, how must they feel at present? What could be happening to them faced with the possibility of losing power?

[Answer] I believe that they are realizing that they made a very serious mistake, namely, that of not having fulfilled what they promised when they assumed power. Although they attained it at the request of a very large majority of the country, the first promise that they made was to reestablish institutionality as soon as possible. Their stay has been extended far beyond what it should have been; which has upset the country's life and their military function as well. That is why, the sooner democracy is reestablished and each one holds his proper position, the better off we shall all be.

[Question] That is what you want, but what might they want?

[Answer] They speak through their commander in chief, and from the tone of that voice, he does not want to leave the government for another 6 years.

The Government of the Future

[Question] With the transition phase completed, we must consider a government-government. The Alliance is an association of parties which have united for the current situation, but what type of government could such different sectors create?

[Answer] That is the only way of seriously undertaking the reconstruction of the republic in democratic terms; because it is proof that all of us are willing to yield in our ideological concepts; that the task of building democracy is a task for Chileans as such, and that democracy is more important than the different doctrines. Democracy is the construction of a house in which each one will have his room later. We have to make the foundation for the house and build it.

[Question] What might the economy of that house be like, for example?

[Answer] We have an alternative plan which has been studied by hundreds of professionals and which we want to bring up for discussion. All aspects have been meticulously analyzed. Last year, over 500 professionals met at Punta de Tralca, and this year they will number 1,000.

[Question] With regard to specific issues, but very important ones, what do you think about re-renegotiating the foreign debt?

[Answer] We have considered that in depth. We know that Chile, with a different image and a different sociopolitical reality, will be equipped to present itself to the rest of the world, not to seek a regrettable renegotiation, half secretly, with the private banks, but rather directly, government-to-government, requesting treatment that entails postponing all payment; because the country has to raise itself up with its own strength. And the foreign debt service must be postponed for at least 20 years.

[Question] What would be the most urgent measures to reduce unemployment?

[Answer] That means putting the country in a war economy; putting it to work from the standpoint of meeting basic needs. This means a very active agrarian program which will be able to put over 200,000 persons to work within a short time. It entails a major housing construction plan; it entails an agreement between the workers and business owners in the industrial sector, so as to stimulate the idle capacity, which amounts to about 40 percent. It entails a very clearcut and well-defined policy on foreign investments which we need.

[Question] What role will be played by the national banks in the new economic structure that you are citing?

[Answer] I consider the banks an indispensable service, but I think that they must accrue the profits of a sound economy. The banks must be in the service of a real economy, not the opposite, as has occurred. We are conducting accurate studies on the banking area, and we shall submit them at the proper time.

[Question] To give an example, would the new Mining Code which your fellow party member, Radomiro Tomic, has criticized so harshly, be retained?

[Answer] I agree completely with Radomiro Tomic in his criticism, and I think that we are in a position to state publicly that this Mining Code is an attack against a fundamental resource that the country possesses, and that we shall review the situation attentively and carefully.

2909

CSO: 3348/6

BRIEFS

CANADIAN LOAN--The Costa Rican Government yesterday signed a \$15 million loan agreement with the Canadian Agency for International Development. The loan will be for 50 years at zero percent interest. Central American Fertilizers, Inc. will receive \$11.5 million to obtain raw materials, and the Costa Rican Railroads will receive \$3.5 million to purchase equipment. [Summary] [PA091757 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Sep 83 p 7a]

CSO: 3248/59

INEFFICIENCY, IRREGULARITIES IN ENTERPRISES EXAMINED

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 10 Sep 83 p 2

[Article by Mirta Rodriguez Calderon]

[Text] The National State Arbitration Meeting that ended yesterday after naming the winners of the internal emulation during the Thursday sessions was characterized by fluent, serious and critical debate and the complexity of the concrete situations that were examined.

The keynote of the event was the presentation of reports from the chief arbiters in all the provinces and more than a dozen ministries and national economic entities.

In the majority of the cases, those reports covered all the points on the agenda. They referred to: the measures adopted for the application of the Resolution of the Sixth Plenum of the Central Committee; the tasks aimed at ending enterprise inertia and the support received from the party, the government and the organism; participation in research tied to the economy and the experiences accumulated; contractual problems; and the effectiveness and economic results of state arbitration as a whole.

In spite of the fact that the majority of the arbiters in the country recognized that there has been improvement in what they call "ending enterprise inertia," they almost all stated that many processes are still /based on habit/ [in bold-face]. The economic entities that are involved in a certain problem or the lack of fulfillment of some aspect of the contracts do not present the appropriate claims. The arbiters themselves must "take sides in the matter." This provides impunity to many "guilty" persons who manage to slip by unnoticed and hurts the enterprises economically since they could have been compensated. It also implies negligence and harmful ignorance of existing legislation.

The delay--extreme in some cases--in signing contracts and signing them after the stipulated date also cropped out frequently in the reports given by the arbiters. One aspect of the same contractual problem that was also examined was omitting or not being sufficiently clear about the so-called quality specifications. This makes arbitration difficult when discrepancies occur.

Concrete Situations

The arbiters brought up and examined many experiences. Lino Salazar, Guantanamo arbiter, cited the case of a truck with 46 quintals of food requisitioned from the Collection and Preprocessing Enterprise by the Baracoa police. The Select Fruits Enterprise had made the purchase directly from the peasants and paid for it. The peasants did not fulfill their deliveries to the Collection and Preprocessing Enterprise as stipulated in the contract.

Some of the things mentioned by state arbiter Elpidio Perez coincided with the above situation. He said that there are agricultural enterprises that deflect their products to the parallel market even though they have not fulfilled their deliveries to the Collection and Preprocessing Enterprise because they can sell them on the market at higher prices. They pay the fine for not fulfilling their deliveries and still make a profit. The victim, he said, is the people. They do not receive bananas and other products and have to buy them at a much higher price on the parallel market.

Compacted Fertilizer

A different type of situation revealing the complexities of the contractual process was narrated by arbiter Jaime Velasco from Camaguey. He said that the Nuevitas Fertilizer Enterprise was sued by the Agricultural-Livestock Supplies Enterprise because the latter had to compensate agricultural units for the delivery of compacted (hardened) fertilizer. The agricultural units had to use manpower and time to convert the fertilizer into powder and, therefore, were justly compensated. However, the Agricultural-Livestock Supplies Enterprise had not specified in its contract with the Nuevitas Fertilizer Enterprise that the latter had to deliver it in powder. That exonerated the production enterprise which alleges that it lacks the necessary technology to guarantee that the fertilizer will not harden. Situations like these make arbitration a difficult task and also magnify its importance.

Lost Wire

State arbiter Reinaldo Caballero asked himself and those present: Why do so many people continue working with papers and not products?

He was referring to the situation caused by the claim that the Esteban Lugo Wire and Electrode Factory in Nuevitas made. It received imported wire to produce barbed wire. The imports weighed less than was stated on paper. When arbitration tried to clear up the situation, it found that, at each link in the chain, it was stated that they had billed according to the papers remitted. There were many factors involved: the importing enterprise that bought the raw material abroad; CUFLET [Cuban Freight Enterprise] which transported it; Terminales Mambises which unloaded it; Customs which did not weigh it and said that it cannot always do it; freight transportation which delivered it to the Universal Products Enterprise which is the marketing entity and which, in turn, delivered it to the production unit. In this case, the marketing enterprise had to compensate the factory without having anyone to claim from because there was no weight control in the other stages.

Bartolome Perez, the arbiter from Ciego de Avila, referred, among other things, to the inefficiency seen in the maintenance of air conditioning equipment and televisions to be sold to the people. They suffer deterioration from the climate or other causes and then cannot be sold at the stipulated price. That is how we lose profitability, he said.

Many questions of this type were analyzed at this state arbitration meeting. Its officials fight a tenacious battle--which is not always understood--for respect for economic legislation and its application.

They Select the Best

The arbitration organs from Havana City and Ciego de Avila provinces were named the best in the country in the evaluation of the emulation in the organism. In the category of large provinces, those named as distinguished, in addition to Havana City, were Holguin, Camaguey, Pinar del Rio, Villa Clara and Matanzas. Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus and Las Tunas provinces were the winners among the small provinces.

Pinar del Rio, Havana City, Camaguey, Holguin, Ciego de Avila, Sancti Spiritus and Guantanamo won in the interprovincial emulation.

The National State Arbitration Meeting was presided over by: Juan Vega Vega, legal adviser of the Secretariat of the Council of Ministers; Miguel Reyes, chief state arbiter; Gilberto Valdes and Antonio Roig, section chief and official, respectively, of the Economic Department of the Central Committee; and Benito Besada from the state arbitration organ.

7717

CSO: 3248/39

SCHOOL FOR COMMUNICATIONS, CHEMICAL WARFARE TROOPS OPENS

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 3 Sep 83 p 6

[Article by Diana Sosa]

[Excerpts] An important source of advanced-level specialists and cadres for our FAR opened up with the inauguration of the FAR School for Communications and Chemical Warfare Troops.

The opening ceremony for this modern and comfortable military school was presided over by Div Gen Sixto Batista, alternate member of the Politburo of the party and chief of the Central Political Directorate of the FAR. Brig Gen Moises Sio Wong, chief of the Directorate of MINFAR [Ministry of the FAR], spoke to explain that the establishment of the school is part of the cadre formation policy of the FAR.

Others who presided included: Jose R. Fernandez, minister of education; Div Gen Pedro Garcia Pelaez, substitute for the minister of the FAR; and Pedro Guelmes, minister of communications. They are all members of the Central Committee. Generals, chiefs and officers of the FAR also presided.

Some Characteristics of the Center

The FAR School for Communications and Chemical Warfare Troops has the appropriate hygienic and environmental conditions, installations, shops, specialized classrooms, mechanized leadership training laboratories, firing ranges, sports fields, gymnasiums and lodging. They have the equipment, study materials program and modern devices assembled with the aid and collaboration of Soviet specialists.

The educational personnel, chiefs, officers and technicians have a high level of scientific and technical skill. They are graduates from military academies or advanced military and civilian institutes in the USSR and Cuba. The officers have scientific degrees or are in the process of obtaining them. Some have more than 20 years of experience in education devoted to training command cadres and engineers. They also have service experience in troops and internationalist missions.

The following specialties are taught at the school:

/In Command/ [in boldface]: 1. Tactical command of the communications troops, engineer in the use of radiocommunications; 2. Tactical command of the communications troops, engineer in the use of radio liaison, telephone and multi-channel telegraph equipment; 3. Tactical command of chemical warfare troops, engineer in the use of armaments of the chemical warfare troops and safety devices.

/In Engineering/ [in boldface]: 1. Engineer in radiocommunications, military engineer in radiocommunications; 2. Armaments of the chemical warfare troops and safety devices; military chemical engineer.

7717

CSO: 3248/39

FURTHER DETAILS ON NATIONAL CENSUS REPORTED

Employment Figures

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 21 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] Cuba's population includes 6,775,300 persons 15 years of age or older. Based on their economic situation, 52.3 percent are active; the rest inactive. In addition, 50.2 percent are males, who make up 68.7 percent of the economically active population. In other words, for every 100 persons, 50 are male and 36 of these are part of the economically active population (PEA). In a population analyzed by sex, the participation of males in economic life is 2.2 times higher than that of women.

The productive sphere represents 66 percent of the economically active population, with the two dominant sectors being the agricultural (21.8 percent) and industrial (18.9 percent).

The agricultural sector continues to be the largest source of work for men (27.2 percent) with respect to the total economically active population of males.

The industrial sector has a large share of the economically active population of both sexes and for the active female population, is the largest source of jobs, occupying 17.7 percent of all working women in the country.

A comparison by province shows the following situation with respect to the structure of the economically active population by economic sector of production.

In the agricultural sector in general, there is a high proportion of the active population in the provinces of Las Tunas (36.3 percent), Granma (35 percent), Sancti Spiritus (32.7 percent) and Guantanamo (31.3 percent).

In the industrial sector, the highest proportion is found in the provinces of City of Havana (24.9 percent), Havana (22.6 percent) and Pinar del Rio (19.6 percent) and the special municipality of the Isle of Youth (18.7 percent). The rest of the provinces have almost similar levels (between 14 and 17 percent), except for Guantanamo and Granma, which have the lowest proportions in the country (10.1 and 13.7 percent respectively).

In the nonproductive sphere, the largest percentage of the active population is in City of Havana, with 40.6 percent. The lowest is in the provinces of Ciego de Avila and Las Tunas, with 25 percent each. The rest of the provinces, except for Matanzas, Santiago de Cuba and the Isle of Youth, have percentages under the national average (30.7 percent).

The economically active population has undergone changes in structure between 1953 and 1981. In 1953, 63.3 percent of the economically active population was made up of private workers and 24 percent of workers who were self-employed. In 1970, private workers represented scarcely 1.3 percent of the total active population and state workers 87.5 percent of all active persons.

Population 15 Years of Age and Older Based on Economic Situation and Sex

<u>Economic Situation</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>%</u>
Total	6,775,335	100.0	3,404,381	100.0	3,370,954	100.0
Active	3,540,692	52.5	2,434,069	71.5	1,106,623	32.8
Nonactive	3,234,643	47.7	970,312	28.5	2,264,331	67.2
Seeking 1st job	76,928	1.1	45,664	1.3	31,264	0.9
Retired, pensioners	547,213	8.1	349,998	10.3	197,215	5.9
Persons of independent means, econ. aid	60,535	0.9	27,841	0.8	32,694	1.0
Work in home	1,596,019	23.6	8,242	0.3	1,587,777	47.1
Students	680,108	10.0	352,816	10.4	327,292	9.7
Unable to work	53,516	0.8	35,517	1.0	17,999	0.6
In homes	9,606	0.1	5,504	0.2	4,102	0.1
Not of age to work, not working or studying	55,425	0.8	34,283	1.0	21,142	0.6
Other situation	155,293	2.3	110,447	3.2	44,846	1.3

For the same year (1970), some 11.2 percent of the active population was self-employed and as small farmers or family helpers without pay.

Socialization of production continued its trend during the 1970's. In 1981, state workers represented 93.4 percent of all active persons of both sexes. Non-state workers represent 8.9 percent of the active male population this year, compared with 15.1 percent in 1970.

The number of small farmers also fell in absolute and relative terms compared with 1970 (8.8 percent), with only 3.5 percent of all active persons remaining in that category. As a result, the number of unpaid family workers dropped from 1.2 percent in 1970 to .2 percent in 1981.

In the agricultural sector, the number of cooperatives increased beginning in the last 5 years of the 1970's. In 1981, that occupational category amounted to .9 percent of the country's economically active population, contributing to a reduction in the number of small farmers.

Of the 234,800 non-state workers registered in the 1981 census, 92.1 percent were male (216,200) and only 18,600 were women (7.9 percent).

State workers represent nearly 99 percent of the active female population, both in 1970 as well as in 1981.

In that productive sphere, 88 percent of all occupations are fundamentally distributed over 10 occupational groups of the 34 established by the Uniform Classification of Occupations in Cuba, with the predominant categories being the following: agricultural occupations, representing 25 percent; planning and control occupations (10.6 percent); machine construction, metalworking, electrical-technical and electronics and silverworking (10.2 percent); transportation (8.4 percent); construction (8.3 percent) and occupations in commerce and food-related areas (7.1 percent).

With respect to the rate of unemployment, there are various methods for calculating unemployment. The method used for this publication was that recommended by the United Nations, which includes the population which during the week preceding the census was seeking work, whether or not the persons in question had worked before or were seeking jobs for the first time. The 1981 census showed that persons in both these situations amounted to 121,700, representing an unemployment rate of 3.4 percent, a low figure. In addition, it should be remembered that the country's economy has jobs available for these unemployed persons. However, in some cases, the jobs are not in keeping with the aspirations of the candidates and in other cases, with the skills of the unemployed.

The economically inactive population (PNEA) totals 3,234,600 persons. Some 87.2 percent worked at home (49.3 percent), were students (21 percent) or retired persons and pensioners (16.9 percent).

When analyzing these groups by sex, one observes that the nation has a large labor reserve in the women devoted to housework, with 70.1 percent of all inactive women in the country.

With respect to students, there are more men than women (36.4 to 14.5 percent), and there are also more men than women among retired persons and pensioners (36.1 to 8.7 percent).

Based on urban or rural categories, housework occupies more persons in rural areas (57.8 percent) than in urban areas (45.5 percent).

There are more students in urban areas (23.4 percent) than in rural areas (15.9 percent).

Finally with respect to the retired and pensioners category, they make up 19.2 percent in urban areas and 12 percent in rural areas.

Percentage Distribution of Economically Active Population By Province and Sector of Production, 1981

Province	Total	Total Ind.	Constr.	Agric.	For- estry	Trans.	Com- mun.	Com- merce	Other Prod.	Non- Prod.	Undeclared	
Cuba	100.0	66.0	18.9	8.9	21.8	0.5	6.2	0.8	8.6	0.3	30.7	3.3
Pinar del Rio	100.0	71.6	19.6	8.7	29.5	1.7	4.3	0.6	7.2	0.0	25.7	2.7
Havana	100.0	68.7	22.6	5.4	26.1	0.3	6.3	0.8	7.1	0.1	26.7	4.6
City of Havana	100.0	56.4	24.9	8.2	1.9	0.0	8.2	1.1	11.2	0.9	40.6	3.0
Matanzas	100.0	66.8	17.4	8.0	23.7	0.8	6.2	0.9	9.8	0.0	30.7	2.5
Villa Clara	100.0	70.0	16.1	9.4	26.2	0.7	7.3	0.8	9.4	0.1	27.1	2.9
Cienfuegos	100.0	68.8	17.8	10.4	26.6	0.4	5.4	0.7	7.5	0.0	27.0	4.2
S. Spiritus	100.0	72.1	17.2	9.4	32.7	0.5	4.5	0.7	7.0	0.1	25.4	2.5
Ciego de Avila	100.0	72.2	17.2	8.1	29.9	0.4	6.2	0.8	9.5	0.1	25.0	2.8
Camaguey	100.0	70.0	16.1	9.4	26.2	0.7	7.3	0.8	9.4	0.1	27.1	2.9
Las Tunas	100.0	71.9	14.7	7.6	36.3	0.5	4.3	0.8	7.7	0.0	25.0	3.1
Holguin	100.0	69.2	17.4	10.4	27.8	0.8	4.9	0.6	7.1	0.2	27.6	3.2
Granma	100.0	68.8	13.7	7.5	35.0	0.5	4.7	0.4	7.0	0.0	27.2	4.0
Stgo. de Cuba	100.0	64.6	14.4	11.3	22.9	0.5	6.8	0.8	7.7	0.2	31.0	4.4
Guantanamo	100.0	66.7	10.1	9.6	31.3	1.3	5.2	0.6	8.5	0.1	29.1	4.2
Isle of Youth (special mun.)	100.0	60.9	18.7	12.8	15.2	0.8	4.5	1.3	7.6	0.0	36.0	3.1

Source: Sheet 50, Population and Housing Census, 1981.

Data on Female Work Force

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 21 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by Jose M. Norniella]

[Text] Industry is the major work source for women in Cuba, employing nearly 18 percent of all workers in the country, according to the 1981 Population and Housing Census, the results of which are being published by GRANMA.

Nearly 200,000 women are employed in industry, representing over 29 percent of all active persons in the sector. It is followed by commerce, with 135,500, and agriculture, with 111,000 women employed.

For men, the agricultural sector continues to be the main source of work. It employs nearly 662,000 workers, while industry employs 472,400.

A little over 1 million persons work in the nonproductive sphere, 51 percent of them women.

Approximately 1.2 million persons have intellectual jobs. Nearly a third are in planning and control, 23 percent in teaching and research, 7.5 percent in medicine, 7 percent in engineering and technology, 3 percent in culture and the arts, and 1.7 percent in management.

The rate of activity for the Cuban population of both sexes has risen to over 52 percent. This rate is obtained by comparing the number of persons 15 years of age or older with the total number of persons of those same ages. If one analyzes the index by sexes, one observes a marked difference between men and women in economic participation. For the former, the rate is 72 percent, and for the latter, 33 percent.

One significant fact emerges from a comparison of groups by ages. For men, it is uniformly high from the age of 25 on and does not vary much until the 50-54 group. In the 30-34 group, nearly all are economically active, with a total rate of 97 percent.

This rate is also beginning to rise for women starting with the age of 20, reaching its maximum expression in the 30-34 group, in which 52 out of 100 are employed.

11,464

CSO: 3248/50

ACTIVITIES OF MEDICAL TEAM IN GRENADA DESCRIBED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 16 Sep 83 pp 8-11

[Article by Frank Hechavarria: "Sixteen in Grenada"]

[Text] To any Grenadian the Cuban physicians rendering internationalist aid on the island are not "Cuban doctors," as they must be termed in English, but rather, "the Cuban doctor" and the "Cuban," as they put it in perfect Spanish. This attracted our notice. Several days spent alongside the internationalists led us to the conviction that, actually, to a Grenadian, "Cuban" is something more than a word: it is an attitude, a responsibility and an identification between two fraternal peoples.

Something as simple as the connotation of a term reflects what that medical brigade means to the people of Grenada, now entrenched in the habit of a new system of aid that the "Cuban doctors" have brought to the island. It may be claimed without fear of exaggeration that this is a "revolution in medicine."

From Dr Hector Mengana Gutierrez, chief of the group, we learned that there are 16 comrades rendering services in Grenada: four general physicians, a clinician, a surgeon, an orthopedic specialist, an anesthetist, two pediatricians, a psychiatrist, three dentists, one pathological anatomy technician and he himself, a specialist in gynecology and obstetrics.

After the internationalist medical assistance arrived in Grenada, it was decided that this service had to be taken to the interior section of the island. Thus, the brigade was divided into three groups: the largest would settle in St George's (the capital); another would go to Grenville, the island's second-largest city; and the third would leave for the neighboring island of Carriacou. This type of work has been continued during the nearly 3 years that the Cuban doctors have been providing aid to the people of Grenada.

Mengana explains that the largest group (the one at St. George's) moves about in different regions or "parishes" (a parish is something like a municipality) and in towns. For example, the clinician works at the hospital and the Psychiatric Center, but he also provides inter-office visits at Point Salines for the Cuban builders. The psychiatrist works in an intensive care unit at the hospital, serves the Psychiatric Center and visits the regions of St David, Grenville, Sauteurs, Victoria and Gouyave. The orthopedic specialist and the

pediatrician work at St George's, in the hospital and at the polyclinic as well.

The same thing will have to be done by the otorhinolaryngologist, who is due to arrive soon. The gynecologist-obstetrician covers several regions, and provides services at the hospital. The only one who remains in the capital is the surgeon, because St George's is the only location where there are operating rooms.

When Dr Mengana was asked whether he thought that the work done by the brigade has been effective, he replied:

"The brigade has been very well received by the Grenadian population. Now then, since the island has a very scattered population, there are but few means for getting about and transportation is very expensive, most of the broad masses (those with the least income) find it impossible to visit the general hospital, which is located at St George's. Therefore, we have carried out this movement of the group in an attempt to bring the specialists to the different municipalities; in other words, to direct medical care toward the rural areas."

This was done, but it was not easy. It was also a task aimed against vestiges of the past, against some insidious propaganda that was circulated at first; but the humane treatment and the scientific quality of the Cuban physicians destroyed the venomous lies, mainly because the accurate diagnosticians have brought about the saving of lives in times of trouble, and that has been their best recommendation, translated into acceptance and real affection from the people for the Cuban doctors.

Mengana explains: "What is happening on the Grenada islands, this new health system, offering treatment free of charge to the population, and in most instances free medicine, is a rare phenomenon to other adjoining islands; so much so that their people come here to meet with the Cuban doctors, but chiefly in search of more humane treatment. There are no physicians on most of the small nearby islands."

The Grenville Team

The second-ranking hospital on the island is the "Princess Alice" located in Grenville. Established there is a small Cuban medical team comprised of Maria Rosa Yanes (general medicine), Regla Perez de los Rios (pediatrician) and Jorge Melo (dentist).

The team works at the hospital and in the consulting office of Grand Brass, a kind of polyclinic with a dentist's office.

The extensive operational work plan being carried out by the Grenville group covers the eastern half of the island. They devote Monday to hospital treatment and visiting cases at home, near the area; on Tuesday, they move on to St David, and then to the "parish" of Mount Clift. On Wednesday, they remain

in the Grand Brass area and in Birch Grove. On Thursday, they are mobilized to the Sauteurs region in the northern part of the island; and on Friday, they stay in Paradise and Mount Carmel.

As may be noted, the tours are daily ones, and cover three regions, or provinces: St Andrews, St David and St Patrick.

According to Dr Maria Rosa Yanes, the disease that most heavily afflicts the residents of the zone is hypertension. Some are of the opinion that it is due to the geographical conditions, because there are many hills, and people have to expend extra effort. But the doctor claims that, if that were the case, all the mountain residents would have heart disease; and she thinks that the problem stems from malnutrition and cigarette smoking.

The average number of cases visited weekly ranges between 200 and 250; but there are weeks in which it declines to 180 and even 150, particularly on rainy days. In pediatrics, the figure is far smaller; whereas in dentistry the office visits vary depending on the extractions. There are days on which they number as many as 30, but on others they decline considerably.

The Cubans' office consultations are attended by patients who are dissimilar, both in age, sex and social status. If a person has but few financial resources, the doctor notes on the prescription given to him that, at the hospital dispensary, he is to be given the medicines free of charge. A patient who can do so pays a dollar, never more.

23 Miles From Grenada

Of all the islands, keys, islets and shoals surrounding Grenada, the largest is Carricou, located 23 miles to the northeast. In that territory of the Grenadine Islands there is a medical team comprised of Cuban internationalists.

Few events occur on Carricou, and when they do, "they occur slowly." Such is the nature of this portion of Grenada, whose 13 square miles of not very high hills and wonderful white sand beaches house a population numbering 6,502 inhabitants. The trip from Grenada to this island can be made on a six-seat LIAT airline small plane, or on any type of vessel. To be sure, by plane it takes only 15 minutes, and by motorboat, it takes about 4 hours.

At the present time, the Carricou team is not complete, because the dentist, Agustin Castillo, finished his work recently and returned to Cuba. There are only two doctors on the island: Rey Ramos Rivera (general medicine) and his wife, Lilliam Pachon Gonzalez (pediatrician).

On Carricou we found that there remained from the British colonization the pompous names of the hospitals; just like the one in Grenville, this one on Carricou belongs to the "royal family": Princess Royal Hospital, an imposing name for a center with only 36 beds, which does not even have an operating room, X-rays or laboratories.

The Cuban medical brigade rotates its members among the various locations where there is equipment. For example, nearly all the physicians who are in Grenada have spent a minimum period of 8 months on Carricou; however, Dr Rey Ramos is the only one who has spent all his time there, having remained on this island 2 years, which he wanted to spend there. "Why?" I asked him.

He replied: "I requested it; I like this island; but when Lilliam was in Grenville the stay was more difficult. When she came, everything was different; and I would like to end the time remaining to me in Grenada here."

The accounts of the incidents that have befallen Rey and Lilliam in this paradise lost of the Caribbean would be suitable material for a good adventure book.

The capital of Carricou is called Hillsborough, and is located on the west coast of the island; but to depart for Petit Martinique, one has to cross the entire island and reach the port of Windward, on the east coast. There, every Wednesday, the Cuban doctors take a small sailboat with two outboard motors and, in less than half an hour, dock at the small pier on Petit Martinique.

This other island of Grenada measures only about 4 miles, and a channel separates it from Petit St Vincent and from many other islands and keys which form a small archipelago known as the Grenadine Islands, part of which belongs to Grenada and the rest to St Vincent.

On that islet of Petit Martinique there is a small polyclinic with a Grenadian nurse, in which its nearly 700 inhabitants receive medical treatment once a week. But the remarkable thing is that it is visited by hundreds of persons living on the islands of the neighboring country, who come to see the Cuban doctors. According to Anne Clements, the first one waiting for the doctors from an early hour, she comes because: "They are very good, most of all, very kind; and they know a great deal!"

I asked her: "How did you know that the Cuban doctors would be coming today?"

She answered: "Oh, because they come every Wednesday from all the near islands to visit this office. There are no doctors like the Cuban ones around here."

The young mother from Petit St Vincent began to leave for the dock, where her companion was waiting for her on a small boat to make the crossing to the other island. But suddenly she turned around and said to me:

"I hope that the Cuban doctors will go to St Vincent soon!"

PHOTO CAPTIONS [photos not reproduced]

1. p 8. The May Day section of the Cuban medical brigade marched with the Grenadian workers.
2. p 9. Hector Mengana, chief of the Cuban medical brigade, shows the different locations where our physicians are rendering services.
3. p 9. Drs Gustavo Martinez and Raul Fernandez examine a patient who would later undergo surgery.
4. p 9. Regla Perez de los Rios, shown with a tiny patient, provides treatment for the entire child population of the Grenville region.
5. p 10. Maria Rosa Yanes says: "The affection that the patients show us is our best reward."
6. p 10. Rey Ramos and Lilliam Pachon on the small boat that takes them to Petit Martinique every Wednesday.
7. p 11. Grand Brass is the site of the dentist's office run by Jorge Malo, from Havana, who came approximately 2 years ago.
8. p 11. Pediatrician Zenaida Deiros is one of the veterans; she arrived 23 months ago, and is awaiting her replacement.

2909

CSO: 3248/63

ECONOMIC GROWTH UNDER 7 PERCENT, INFLATION UNDER 6 PERCENT

Santa Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 17 Sep 83 p 15

[Text] The Dominican economy grew at an actual 4 percent yearly rate during the first half of 1983, and the inflation rate was held at under 7 percent, according to a Central Bank report.

in economic growth the high production levels of rice, corn, peanuts, pork and of the mining and construction sector, according to the publication prepared by the department of economic research of that institution.

The country's inflation rate is the second lowest in Latin America.

Likewise, the central government's deficit was reduced by 33 percent. Other state institutions recorded substantial reductions in their deficits.

The money supply increased approximately 9 percent and deposits by the private sector in commercial banks increased significantly, according to the statistics. Hard currency arrears at the Central Bank decreased by approximately \$53 million and the deficit in the current account of the balance of payments also decreased.

Agriculture and Stock-raising Sector

The rate of growth in agriculture and stock-raising production in the January-June period of 1983 was 2.6 percent, below the growth for the same period in the previous year when it increased to 3.7 percent.

The reduction in the rate of growth is attributed to a drop in related production in the agriculture and livestock subsectors.

The 1.6 percent growth in the agriculture subsector's production was attributable, according to the study, to developments in primary farming areas such as paddy, seed corn, sugar cane, raw tobacco, coffee berries, cocoa beans, unshelled peanuts, beans, bananas and tomatoes.

Mining

The overall value of mining recorded an increase of 40.3 percent over the past 6 months in comparison with the same period last year.

The index shows satisfactory recovery if it is compared with the negative development of January-June 1982. Experts attribute this to the normalization of production from Falconbridge Dominicana.

Production of gold and silver showed rates of decrease of 9.2 and 56.8 percent in comparison with the same period in 1982.

Construction

The construction sector recorded a growth rate of 14.9 percent.

The report indicates that the authorities have adopted a series of measures to increase activities in the sector which were practically paralyzed in the early months of 1982.

Prices

Inflation, as of May 1983, was 6.34 percent while in the same period in 1982 it reached 7.05 percent.

The inflationary index rose to 4.74 from January to May of this year due to the 76-percent increase in the prices of foodstuffs, beverages and tobacco whose weight in the family basket is 52 percent.

9436

CSO: 3248/33

PENA GOMEZ FEARS INTERNAL DIVISION

Santo Domingo EL CARIBE in Spanish 17 Sep 83 p 1, 5B

[Text] The secretary general of the Dominican Revolutionary Party [PRD] stated last night that in that organization there is "a serious danger of division" which, in his judgment, may be "suicide" for those taking part in the pro-government party's in-fighting.

Jose Francisco Pena Gomez said that the current in-fighting in the PRD may mean the loss of the 1986 elections.

The National District official stated that in spite of his leadership within the government party, he cannot guarantee that this crisis can be resolved since sectors in power are involved in it.

He pointed out that one of those sectors is in the Congress and the other in the National Palace.

Pena Gomez referred in those terms when a closed-door meeting which part of the National Executive Committee held at the national residence of that organization to ascertain its internal problems and the party-government relationship was over. The capital-based official said that at the meeting the only thing which was discussed was the problem arising from the layoff of dozens of Public Works Ministry workers, with a committee selected to be responsible for handling the case with President Salvador Jorge Blanco. The group is presided over by architect Leopoldo Espaillat Nanita, president of the Dominican Oil Refinery [REFIDOM].

At the CEN meeting, called by Pena Gomez himself, members of that organization linked with President Jorge Blanco's faction holding jobs in the government did not attend.

In light of this situation, the PRD leader moved that the meeting be postponed until next Tuesday and that only the Public Works problem be discussed, a motion approved by those present.

The PRD secretary general said that the problems affecting his party, in addition possibly to provoking a division within the organization, "also mean a weakening of the government's support base."

He added that such a situation does not favor either the government or the presidential aspirations of the president of the senate, attorney Jacobo Majluta. "A solution to these problems must be found because the people are fed up and sick and tired of internal divisions and quarrels among our PRD leaders," he said. The capital-based official reported that as an example of tolerance at last night's meeting, they reduced "the fines we imposed on the committee for layoffs as a tribute to the moderation which they showed recently, and we are restoring them to the positions they used to hold in the party leadership."

He stated, however, that PRD leaders who had been suspended from that organization for participating in "The Structure," a movement supporting the presidential aspirations of attorney Majluta, "may not return," because, in his judgment, it is nonsense that people can participate in two party entities at the same time. Pena Gomez said that he cannot predict whether the efforts which are being made to maintain unity within the PRD will produce results because he believes "the magic which I have had for 20 years for holding the party together is already being lost."

"Actually I must say the following: out of generosity on one hand and party convenience and timeliness on the other, I allowed all the party's middle-level cadre to go off with various comrades who were not leaders 10 years ago. But new leaders had to be promoted, above all after Professor Juan Bosch left," the political leader pointed out.

He added that nowadays "those middle-level PRD leadership comrades are all solidly lined up since they are not pro-Pena Gomez; so I must say clearly with my normal sincerity that it is not easy for me to lay down a predetermined PRD line."

He stated that the splintering of middle-level PRD cadres "means that my margin for maneuver in leading the PRD has been reduced except that I go on having considerable strength at lower level, among the masses."

9436

CSO: 3248/33

CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY SAID TO IGNORE INPUT ON CONSTITUTION

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 12 Sep 83 p 39

[La Curul 61 commentary by DE VE]

[Text] Jose Armando Pena Argueta, president of the Bar Association of El Salvador, looked somewhat disappointed as he, together with the other lawyers Rosendo Americo Perez Posadas and Salvador Cano Gutierrez, also directors of the association, called a press conference to discuss the Constitution and the deputies.

Our colleague's disappointment would have probably been less if he had read--or having read it, if he had believed--when in this same column I made it known that I was removing myself from the discussions of the Assembly, when legal and real persons were asked to express their ideas on constitutional matters. At that time I wrote that it would be like drawing a line in the air (or something similar, I cannot remember the exact words) but that in any event the Assembly was not going to take into account anything that might arise there.

And that is what actually happened. However, the leader of the legal profession has now reformulated some quite interesting issues, such as the need for the Judicial Power to have a fixed annual budget equal to 5 percent (I had previously proposed 6 percent in order to put a stop to the "Cinderella" role of the Judicial Power among the other government offices...) and he brought up several issues with which we agree, concerning the inclusion within the constitutional text, of a series of provisions pertaining to secondary laws and not to a Maximum Statute. The outcome of this has been that the future constitution will be, indeed (as I have been calling it for quite some time), a "poor man's cloak": full of patches...

Nevertheless, the attitude of the leaders of the Bar Association, in addition to being brave and timely, is fair to the extent that it expresses the pre-occupation of an entity that groups those who, with their juridical mentality and ideas, should have been the natural consultants to the Constituent Assembly in order to prevent this anticlimax which will be served upon us in the end.

And the end may be very far away or very near: Col Adolfo Blandon, Chief of the First Infantry Brigade, and one of the military men who in this country and at this time "is in command"... was quite clear and critical in statements published

in this very newspaper last Friday: "We are busy in our field, but mindful of what is going on in the Assembly," is what, a few words more or less, said the aforementioned military man. I do not know whether the present deputies know or remember (and if they do not, I am hereby reminding them) that the famous Constitution of 1886, which has been the crucible for other subsequent ones, was the result of a "manu militari" action carried out by President Francisco Menendez in 1885: in that year there was a Constituent Assembly that was advancing at a snail's pace towards the promulgation of a Constitution...and the president then decided to dissolve the Parliament of that time and to convoke a new Assembly that ended up producing--in a short time period, indeed--the famous Constitution of 1886. History is illustrative.

Therefore, although partisan matters are important, they are not, nor should they be, the main issue in the new Constitution. The Government of Unity, in the words of Genaro Pastore (who was the first one to point it out) had turned into the Government of Scoundrels (Carduna)...and the people elected representatives in order to get a Constitution, not as employment agents. If the multiplicity of partisan orientations persists in disregarding the guerrilla activities, which are of course against everybody, the latter will be the winners in the end. But apparently the representatives are ignoring it.

12493

CSO: 3248/1292

COLONEL BLANDON COMMENTS ON CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, ESA, FMLN

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 9 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] "The military, although we are permanently busy in our own field, are always mindful of what is going on in the Constituent Assembly," stated today Colonel Adolfo Blandon, Chief of the First Infantry Brigade (San Carlos Barracks). He refrained from expressing any other opinion when he was asked to give his opinion about some aspects that are currently being approved or rejected and that are considered a step back by several sectors. However, he reiterated that the fact that they are neglecting "the state of affairs in the Assembly." The high-ranking military chief said that all units are presently responding well, fighting with enthusiasm and permanently on the offensive, something that could not be achieved when Gen Jose Guillermo Garcia was Defense Minister. Blandon elaborated on this opinion stating: "There was a loss of trust in the High Command, particularly in the defense minister, due to lack of communication and understanding between the minister and the combat units." Concerning the threat of the ESA (Secret Anticommunist Army) in the sense that they have set their eyes on any civilian and military man who supports the dialogue, Blandon replied: "It is a phantom organization. I cannot determine its origin. But the officers support the dialogue because the High Command keeps us commanders informed, and we pass on this information to the officers." On the other hand, he stated that the members of the Peace Committee "have great moral authority and that is why we believe that the government is showing good leadership in that area." He said that it is a matter of the Left participating in an electoral process under the same conditions as the other parties. "Even though I believe" he stated "that the Left is not going to participate because what they want is power." Referring to the FDR/FMLN [Revolutionary Democratic Front/Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] he said that it contains two strong currents: the FDR, which is the political one, and the FMLN, which is the military one. "And their armed commanders are the real bosses, and therefore they are not going to pay attention to the politicians. The FMLN wants to take power by force of arms. Joaquin Villalobos said so a few days ago, by threatening death to any civilian or military man who stands in his way to power" said Blandon.

12493

CSO: 3248/1292

CHIEF OF STATE OPENS C.A. TRADE CONFERENCE

Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 19 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Excerpts] Sponsored by the Business Chamber of Guatemala and Caribbean Central American Action, with the cooperation of the North American Chamber of Commerce in Guatemala, Sunday night at the Camino Real Hotel a conference was opened on "Economic Prospects and Business Opportunities in Central America."

It fell to the chief of state, General Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores, to open this extremely important event, by delivering a profound speech. Government authorities and representatives of private industry also attended as well as investors and foreign businessmen, who are taking part in the discussions, considered a most important step for the establishment of the Caribbean Basin Plan.

Businessmen from Central America and the United States are examining the economic prospects and opportunities for business within the "Reagan Plan" for the economic reactivation of the Caribbean Basin countries. With the attendance of more than 300 businessmen from the Central American countries and members of the chambers of commerce of several North American cities, panels, round tables and lectures are being held today and tomorrow on economic policies, trade and investment and mainly about the best use of what is called the "Reagan" law, recently approved by the North American congress.

This law frees from assessments some nontraditional products of the Caribbean Basin countries to be exported to the United States.

In his talk Mejia Victores said that new firms will emerge under the protection of the law, considered a "mini-Marshall" plan to prop up the economies of the region. The chief executive was accompanied by the ministers of foreign relations; lawyer Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran of Economy; Arturo Padilla Lira and by his chief of staff, Colonel of Infantry DEM Juan Jose Marroquin S.

The president of the conference, Arturo Guirola Batres, president in turn of the Business Chamber of Guatemala, explained the opportunities that the Reagan law offers and greeted the participants, among whom are several ministers of economy and trade from the Central American countries, directors of chambers of trade, industry and tourism from those nations and from

the twin chambers of Houston-San Antonio and other cities of the United States.

Mejia Victores stated that on authorizing the entry of a considerable number of products from the region free of the payment of duties into the United States, they are promoting the organization and establishment of new businesses that may be able to start an increase in the level of our exports. They believe that this special treatment, to a certain extent, will allow the businessmen of the region and the foreign investors to compete in the United States market under less unfavorable circumstances.

The following is the text of the talk by chief of state Mejia Victores:

This first step is of itself significant since it leads to recognizing the importance of the economic and social problems that trouble this region and it formulates a series of standards that have the aim of encouraging our economic reactivation and of allowing a better and more fair trade exchange with the United States.

On authorizing the entry of a considerable number of products from the region free of the payment of duties into the United States, they are promoting the organization and establishment of new firms that may start an increase in the level of our exports. We believe that this special treatment, to a certain extent, will allow the businessmen of the region and the foreign investors and above all, North Americans, to compete in the U.S. market under less unfavorable circumstances. [as published]

This plan, called by some a mini-Marshall for the Caribbean, has a very positive look, since it focuses our problems within a more realistic perspective.

The Caribbean and Central America have been transformed in recent years into the center of attention worldwide because of the serious political, social and economic problems that have arisen.

Unfortunately, the root of our problems has not always been examined objectively, and they try from outside, with a perhaps simplistic outlook, to dictate "magic" formulas for our ills.

The task that falls to us, the Central Americans and Caribbean people, is very complex, and it is for that reason we believe that each and every one of the governments must halt to think carefully and objectively in order to determine those areas that will allow us a better approach and that will produce a common effort that, in the final instance, will come to benefit the vast majority of the people marginalized from economic wellbeing and who live precariously within a climate, in some countries, of violence and incomprehension.

It is not easy to find formulas that will relieve tensions, but if all of us commit ourselves to act in good faith and with mutual respect, we can advance on the road of peace and easing of tension.

This meeting of businessmen, political personalities and experts in various fields represents a real advance for our region. Knowing the potential for economic development that exists in our countries, we believe that from this kind of meeting ideas and initiatives will emerge that will allow the singling out of economic measures that may permit facilitating and increasing our exports.

At the same time, while becoming attractive through a tax incentive for North American organizations, the holding of conventions in the region will be allowing important businessmen from the United States to travel to carry out their periodic meetings and to also be able to realize our problems and, above all, the opportunities that exist.

We believe that the economic development of the nations depends basically on the strengthening of the business sector, which by its own nature is creative and aggressive.

Economic development is fundamental for progress and the growth that we are seeking must also help the labor sector, in the countryside as well as in the city. We have a capable workforce that can be trained to satisfy the needs of companies, and we are concerned with substantially increasing our level of employment.

If we have sufficient funds to strengthen established industries and agro-industries, as well as to organize new ones, we will be able to advance rapidly in the diversification of our exports.

In this way, it is very important that financing flow from the international agencies and from the private banks. It is our wish to sponsor a climate that will allow confidence to return to the investors and to the international financiers.

In the past, to a considerable extent, the situation in Central America was not known, and concern for our future was superficial or limited. Today, as the big industrialized countries recognize the importance of our region, is the time to join efforts to involve ourselves in the great task of economic reactivation.

A healthy and thriving economy strengthens the democratic processes which we are committed to carry out.

We are asking for better justice in international trade exchange, since it is clear that the framework in which international trade is developing suffers from serious defects that obviously are damaging the poor countries, on whom the impact of the economic crisis that the world is undergoing has been made to fall unjustly.

Finally, I want to express to the participants at this important event my best wishes for the success of your discussions so that more solid routes can be thus found for our mutual benefit.

ITALY, SPAIN EXPRESS INTEREST IN FUTURE INVESTMENTS

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 20 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] Italy as well as Spain are interested in assisting economically in Guatemala, including investing in development projects, reported General Jorge Mario Lopez Fuentes, chief of the general staff for defense.

General Lopez referred to his tour through Europe during which he visited high officials of both countries.

In Rome, he said, Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti demonstrated having extensive knowledge of Guatemala. He showed he was interested in the construction of the Rio Chixoy hydroelectric plant under the Italian firm Cogefar. Andreotti offered to increase funds so that Cogefar can carry on its work, keeping in mind the increases caused by inflation.

Also Andreotti repeated the offer made to the government of ex-president Rios Montt to donate electronic equipment for identifying personnel, which is valued at about \$4 million. Lopez Fuentes said that he asked Andreotti to maintain this offer that was of course repeated.

They also spoke about maintaining military scholarships for Guatemalan officials. Such scholarships, although they are allotted to big countries, for special reasons are also granted to officials from Guatemala.

Spain: The Dry Canal

Spain, said Lopez Fuentes, expressed a keen interest in there being a renewal of diplomatic relations.

They also showed interest in investing in our country, especially in the so-called "dry canal."

9545

CSO: 3248/23

PGT COMMUNIQUE ANALYZES NATIONAL CRISIS

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 12 Oct 83 p 25

[Public Declaration of Political Commission of Central Committee of the Guatemalan Labor Party on its 34th anniversary: "Strengthen Revolutionary Unity to Help Stop Imperialist Intervention, Overthrow Military Dictatorship in Guatemala!"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] On 28 September, the PGT [Guatemalan Labor Party] celebrated its 34th anniversary. On this occasion, we pay homage to our founders, to our most esteemed leaders, to all our comrades who have died in the fight to liberate the Guatemalan people from oppression and exploitation. We are striving as hard as possible to redirect the PGT along the road of complete incorporation in the popular revolutionary war.

We communists have a commitment to fulfill in the Guatemalan revolutionary process, in the promotion of the popular anti-imperialist agrarian revolution and in the construction of socialism in our country.

Under the present circumstances, the conditions to carry out the historic mission of the Guatemalan communists include: training the remnants of our party; building and developing its armed forces, the military organization that responds to the basic objectives of the Guatemalan working class; strengthening its political and organizational ability; renewing our work for complete incorporation in the popular revolutionary war; overcoming the deviations that immersed the PGT in a deep crisis; and holding our fifth congress.

With this spirit of struggle to correct and truly contribute to the Guatemalan revolutionary process, we encourage the commemoration of our 34th anniversary.

Reactionary Power Crisis Worsens, Rich Exploiters Can't Prevent It

On 8 August 1983, the top officers of the army grouped in the self-named Council of Army Commanders carried out a coup d'etat against the military government headed by Gen Efraim Rios Montt and formed a new coup government headed by Gen Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores. On the political plane, this is one step further in the worsening of the crisis and the collapse of reactionary power.

The in-depth conflicts in the economic and political interests of the exploiters, derived from capitalism's serious economic crisis at the international and national level and the political and military crisis that worsened because of the combative armed revolutionary struggle during the government of the genocidal Romeo Lucas Garcia, led to the failure of the model imposed through the electoral farce and frauds.

Incapable of finding new options, the military dictatorship which is loyal to the designs of the dominating classes and Yankee imperialism had to resort again to a coup as an obligatory and desperate solution.

Crisis of Traditional Power Structure

The coup d'etat on 23 March 1982 attempted to solve the worsening of the power crisis at that time through the replacement of Lucas Garcia's corrupt and criminal government team and through an attempt to develop a new model for the power structure that guaranteed the continued domination of the rich exploiters over our people.

Through the traditional political power structure based on the hegemony of the most reactionary sectors of the dominating classes, the top hierarchy of the army, the rabidly anticommunist political parties and the endorsement and interested support of Yankee imperialism, coups have been hatched since 1954 along with the most barefaced electoral farces and frauds in the history of the country. They carried out criminal and repressive policies and a blood-bath against the popular and revolutionary movement and the democratic and progressive expressions of recent decades.

This structure could not remain unchanged. Conflicts arose between different factions of the bourgeoisie and the landowners and between them and imperialism. These began to show up in the reactionary political parties in Arana Osorio's times, worsened under the Laugerud government and became a crisis facing the decision of the Lucas regime to carry out a new fraudulent imposition in the person of Gen Anibal Guevara.

Marked discontent appeared inside and outside the army toward the clique of top military chiefs as these formed a closed oligarchy that imposed basic political, economic and military decisions and used their power to enrich themselves excessively through brazen theft and government corruption.

This discontent broke out in the coup on 23 March 1982 as a clear sign of internal division in the heart of the army. Externally it was translated into the work of reactionary parties and politicians, backed by imperialism, in support of the coup.

These conflicts that are based on the serious international crisis of capitalism and the crisis of the socioeconomic and political structure that prevails in our country are part of the political crisis of reactionary power. They were unquestionably stimulated by the glorious triumph of the Sandinist popular revolution in Nicaragua, the advance of the heroic Salvadoran revolution and, basically, the combative action of the armed revolutionary struggle in

Guatemala as this demonstrated resoundingly to the dominating classes, the army, the reactionary political parties and Yankee imperialism that the triumph of the Guatemalan revolution is a real possibility.

Facing that prospect, the coup on 23 March 1982--a desperate solution for dictatorial continuity--immediately tried to develop better conditions to spread the counterinsurgent policy and end the crisis of reactionary power.

The military government headed by Rios Montt started the so-called "National Security and Development Plan" and directed all its basic political, economic and military efforts against the revolutionary movement, /its main enemy/. It especially pursued the strategic defense of bourgeois, landowner and imperialist power through the counterinsurgent and genocidal policy that it itself baptized "Guns and Beans." This plan that tries to confront the political crisis in the country emphasizes economic, social and political measures that support the military initiative of the dictatorship.

It was becoming obvious that the military government of Rios Montt was creating conditions to modify the traditional power structure. On the economic plane, its policy was oriented toward giving /preferential/ treatment to the factions of monopolistic, agroexport and financial bourgeoisie and the interests of the multinationals to the detriment of the interests of other exploiting sectors. Its economic measures, mainly the original bill for a tax reform, affected a large part of the production system and the immediate interests of a large part of the dominating classes, primarily the large merchants, leading it to constant confrontations with the management group representing these sectors.

On the political plane, the Rios Montt government became markedly authoritarian, a situation that led it to constant confrontations with the press and different social and religious sectors. Its exercise of power was as tyrannical and despotic as Lucas Garcia's. The restrictions that it imposed on the bourgeois political parties, now called "traditional," generated their hidden and open opposition and the coup conspiracy that developed in the heart of the army. The restrictions were an attempt to develop a deeply reactionary and demagogically "open" reformist project to create the appropriate political instruments to provide a support base for the strategic plan of the upper middle-class sectors that, with Rios Montt, sought to modify the traditional political power structure and develop a new model of reactionary domination. In other words, on the political plane there was an attempt to replace the traditional parties of the far right and the corrupt right and develop a political base of "central" forces that, as expected, sprung out everywhere during this process.

The Council of State was created and proposed a series of political bills, particularly a bill on political organizations, one on the general registration of the population and one on a supreme electoral tribunal. Along with the economic laws, these shaped the legal and economic basis of that project.

With the Rios Montt government, one step more was taken toward the militarization of the state which was initiated in 1963. During this period, the

presence of the /army as an institution/ governing in the different levels of the state system became more accentuated. Its role as an instrument that channels the real power of the oligarchy and as the main unifying force of the dominating classes was reinforced. However, the deep divisions that reflect the conflicts in the dominating classes and among the top officers and the lower-rank officers became even more accentuated.

The Rios Montt government installed after the coup d'etat that the so-called young officers corps carried out openly promoted power parallel to that of the military hierarchy by instituting an advisory corps formed by the ringleaders of that officers corps. In practice, this became one more factor to weaken the traditional political power structure by taking away the authority and the basic level of decision that corresponded to the Army High Command for years.

A determining factor in the failure of the Rios Montt project is that he was not able to establish a political support base. It was clear to our people that the Rios Montt government was as criminal as Lucas'. Along with the genocidal and brutal counterinsurgent action that it developed against the Indian communities and the rural area, it encouraged a demagogic policy of fraud and deceit and hidden and open repression in the urban areas. Apparently, there was a double tactic politically and militarily, in the urban and rural area.

During his administration, the army continued acting as an extermination and occupation force, destroying villages and crops, massacring the population and forcing them at gunpoint, through threats and blackmail, to organize into Civil Self-Defense Patrols, real paramilitary repressive branches of the army. And what about the notorious and repudiated special military courts? These and the genocidal policy in the rural area were the concentrated expression of the order that it attempted to maintain at the cost of the brutal subjection of the people of Guatemala.

The Rios Montt government was also incapable of winning over the people through its economic and tax measures. Our people must clearly see that the famous IVA [Value Added Tax] basically affects them. The protests about this tax that arose in some sectors of the rich exploiters were due to the fact that it affected their earnings to benefit the most powerful sectors.

One other element isolated the Rios Montt government from the masses and was confronted by the opportunism of other reactionary sectors; this is the religious problem. That government crudely set off a religious confrontation by trying to weaken the influence of Catholicism on national life and by taking imprudent and abusive positions that hurt the feelings and the faith of a great majority of the people.

The deeply reactionary reformist project of Rios Montt tried to specifically block the growing role that the progressive Christians, truly committed to the sufferings of the poor, are playing in the fights for the liberation of our peoples. This aim was implemented with the powers given to elements of certain Protestant sects, especially in the rural area, to join the repressive machinery of the army, the military agents and the Civil Self-Defense Patrols.

In short, due to its inability to overcome the crisis that continued to worsen the living conditions of the popular masses, its counterinsurgent policy of genocide and repression against the people, the tax measures that increasingly affect the low income of the workers, etc., the Rios Montt government did not have the popular backing and its reactionary counterinsurgent reformist project failed.

Coups: Reflection of Conflicts, Reactionary Power Crisis

At this point in the conflicts came the coup of 8 August 1983. Like the previous one, it responded in the most general framework to imperialism's interests and strategic and tactical plans for the continent, the Central American area and the Caribbean. In the case of General Mejia Victores' coup, it is clear that it occurred at a particularly tense time in the Central American situation.

The demand for absolute and total submission to the Reagan government's aggressive and interventionist policy in Central America is the main reason Yankee imperialism backed and promoted the coup that overthrew Rios Montt and put Mejia Victores in his place. In this way, imperialism has insured a docile, submissive and repressive government.

The coup d'etat by the self-named Council of Army Commanders precariously tries to reestablish the ailing traditional power structure in order to reestablish: the privileges of the factions of the upper middle class and the landowners who have traditionally played a decisive role in that structure; the role of the military hierarchy, particularly the generals and colonels, as decisive elements in the basic political power structure; the privileged relationship between the traditional political parties of the far right and the government; and complete submission to the dictates of Yankee imperialism.

In this context, the basic functions of the government and the army are handled by two old officers of the military dictatorship: Gen Oscar Humberto Mejia Victores and Gen Hector Mario Lopez Fuentes, former vice minister of defense and former assistant chief of staff of the army, respectively, under the Romeo Lucas Garcia government. Both are responsible for the genocide sustained against the people of Guatemala and were involved in the decision that led to the burning of the Spanish Embassy and many other crimes. Their policy aims at control of the next national constitutional assembly and the next government administration in alliance with the traditional parties of the far right.

At this point, it is clear that the plan of the new coup members to restore the traditional power structure pushes aside Rios Montt's plan to renew the traditional scheme of political parties in order to reestablish and insure the mechanisms of imposition based on the decision of the clique of top military chiefs through crude electoral farces and frauds.

That is the reason for Mejia Victores' ambiguity as to the dates for convoking elections, the replacement of the initial bills for electoral laws by more restrictive ones, the abolition of the Council of State, the general registration

of the population and the personal identity card. This would allegedly limit the fraudulent maneuvers by the traditional reactionary parties that control 800,000 false citizenship cards. This demonstrates the depth of the conflicts within the state since the objective basically was to set up detailed control of the population for counterinsurgent repressive purposes. The coup members opt to temporarily renounce implementation of a highly technical plan for repressive control of the population which mainly affects the revolutionary militants in order to hasten the return to bourgeois antidemocratic constitutionality and give a facade of legitimacy to the military dictatorship, counter new coups and precariously stabilize reactionary power.

This prospect generates discontent among some of the political groups that have arisen and concern in already known ones that still believe naively in the possibilities of a democratic opening. Reality has disillusioned some earlier than others.

To the Guatemalan communists, the reactionary and counterinsurgent content and the weakness of the demagogic "opening" project of Rios Montt which we rejected as we did his alleged "amnesty" were clear. We categorically refused to play the role of figurehead for the regime when they presented the possibility of the registration and participation of the communists in their alleged opening. Events have shown we were right.

We reaffirm to our people that the only alternative that the people in Guatemala have to defeat their exploiters is the violent path of revolution, particularly armed revolutionary struggle. They are forced to this by the stubbornness of the dominating classes and imperialism. As experience shows, the frauds were secondary in the last elections. The basic thing in the imposition was the decision of the clique of top military officers of the army.

Crisis of Socioeconomic Structure, Objective Base of Reactionary Political Power Crisis

The coup dictatorship and the dominating reactionary classes try to make the people believe that the current difficult economic situation in the country is exclusively the result of the bad economic policy of previous governments and the world economic crisis. This is a crude maneuver to hide the basic causes for that situation found in a socioeconomic structure in which a handful of large capitalists and landowners amass fortunes through the exploitation of the work of the laborers, peasants, craftsmen and small Guatemalan industrialists.

This unjust structure guarantees for a small monopolistic sector formed by the richest the extreme exploitation of the urban and rural workers, evicts and deprives hundreds of thousands of peasants of land which is their basic means of production and converts them into cheap temporary manpower for the large agroexport plantations and destroys the production of small farmers and small and medium craftsmen, industrialists and merchants.

This is what is in crisis and produces the effects that the reactionary dominating classes and the dictatorship are forced to recognize as "the most serious economic crisis in our history." It is revealed by:

a) The stagnation of all the sectors of the economy and the closing and bankruptcy of industrial, commercial, agricultural and service enterprises. The economic recession will remain in the immediate future at -2.3 percent.

b) The alarming increase of unemployment and underemployment. According to official predictions, about 40 percent of the labor force will be unemployed or underemployed at the end of this year.

c) The reduction of the purchasing power and the income of the working people. As a result of inflation, the cost of living has tripled in the last 11 years and the real wages of the workers have gone down markedly, remaining far below the needs of the people. In August 1983, 48 out of 100 food products rose in price, influenced by the establishment of the IVA.

d) The noticeable deterioration of the terms of commercial trade abroad which has a very unfavorable result on the trade balance of the country, the worsening of the financial and monetary problems of the country, the loss of monetary reserves of about 355.3 million quetzales in 1982, the crisis in the tourist sector, construction, etc.

On the social plane, the effects of the economic crisis have become more serious. The closing of factories and the reduction of agroexport production have caused mass and individual dismissals in the city and the rural area. The lack of land and the continual subdivision of small parcels of land make the life of the peasant masses harder. Also the prices of basic foods, clothing, housing, transportation, fuel, etc., increase.

There are more than 800,000 minors without a primary education. According to UNESCO figures, about 82 percent of the inhabitants of the country are illiterate. In the rural area, there are about 3.3 million people without potable water. Lack of housing affects 3 million people.

In the health sector, life expectancy at birth for the great majority of Guatemalans is only 45 years. Of every 100 children, only 17 are seen in annual office visits. About 80 percent of the births in the country are not attended to professionally. The infant mortality rate is 81.1 per 1,000, one of the highest rates in the world. In urban areas, 26 percent of the deaths are caused by lack of potable water and minimal sanitary conditions. The United Nations has indicated that 62 percent of the urban population and 80 percent of the rural population in Guatemala go hungry. About 85 percent of the children under 5 years of age suffer from malnutrition, a percentage that is rising rapidly.

In short, there are more poor in the country now than 5 years ago. Of every 100 Guatemalans, about 28 are poor and 52 extremely poor.

Facing the persistence of this acute economic, social and political situation, Mejia Victores' government continued the fiscal reform, without changing its reactionary economic policy. It insists on seeking immediate economic revitalization based on a deformed model of capitalist growth oriented toward exports as part of the imperialist scheme of the Caribbean Plan and the

impositions of the IMF. It especially favors the monopolistic upper middle class and multinational capital. All the weight of the crisis is put on the shoulders of the working people.

State Terrorism Spreads Brazenly

The cancellation of reactionary reformist projects and the "political opening" are part of the plan of the new coup members to continue and spread the policy of terrorist repression against the people. State terrorism is a repressive mechanism that is part of the traditional reactionary power structure in Guatemala. It is an expression of the constant violence that the exploiters use against the people to maintain their domination. As this structure is reestablished, antipopular terrorist repression increases. The army and the security corps revive kidnappings and political assassinations. The genocide against the Indian peasantry in western and northern Guatemala continues and spreads. Because of the resounding failure of the special military courts, they have been abolished and replaced by a new criminal escalation by the paramilitary bands that the army and the security corps direct. Their first victims have been precisely many of the people sentenced in those courts.

Increase Level of Struggle of Popular, Revolutionary Movement: Urgent Need

Under these conditions, the entire Guatemalan revolutionary and popular movement is faced with the need to increase its level of influence and struggle to defeat the domestic and foreign enemies of our people.

At the present time, the popular and revolutionary movement is in a temporary ebb and a phase of reorganization and consolidation of its basic forces. Contrary to everything the enemy does and says, it has not been nor will it be defeated nor has the need to promote the popular revolutionary war ended.

Within the framework of the savage repression of the counterinsurgent policy, the efforts of the enemy to isolate the revolutionary movement of the popular masses through neutralization and genocidal extermination are obvious. However, the flow of our people is inexhaustible and gradually these criminal actions will turn against their oppressors and exploiters.

To our party, the tie with the masses and promotion of the popular struggles are an urgent need. Advancement in the unity process is also essential to raise the level of the revolutionary movement.

The explosive situation of the masses and the battle experience of the Guatemalan revolutionaries create the basic conditions to advance along the road of popular revolutionary war, make Yankee imperialism's interventionist policy in Central America fail, overthrow the military dictatorship, take power and install a democratic, revolutionary, patriotic government with a broad popular base, capable of advancing the tasks of democracy, national independence, popular well-being, social progress and peace.

Aggressiveness of Imperialist Policy Grows

The capitalist system is in its worst crisis of the last 50 years.

The forces of imperialism headed by the government of Ronald Reagan try to stop the collapse of the capitalist system through the arms race and the policy of aggression against the peoples. Their open, brazen interventionism in Lebanon and the Middle East, in southern Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, their hysterical anti-Soviet campaign, their frantic arms race and their obsolete desire for military supremacy are leading the world to the possibility of a nuclear confrontation with unpredictable effects for all mankind.

There is already direct intervention by the Yankee imperialists in Central America. The government of Ronald Reagan, using its policy of hypocritical statements and diplomatic trips at the same time as its deployment of interventionist military forces, is bent on imposing a military solution to the conflicts in the area. Its main objectives right now are the destruction of the heroic Sandinist popular revolution and the defeat of the Salvadoran revolution. Therefore, it has orchestrated a dirty war against Nicaragua with the participation of the Yankee Departments of State and Defense, the CIA, Yankee and Israeli advisers, bands of Somozist counterrevolutionaries and mercenaries of every kind and the puppet regimes in the region.

Its plans are becoming concrete with the Honduran Government in the unfortunate role of lackey, betraying the most elemental patriotic dignity by permitting the soil of that fraternal country to become the parade ground of imperialism in Central America, the launching point and immediate rearguard for the aggression against Nicaragua. They become concrete in the desperate support for the puppet regime in El Salvador through massive military and economic aid while it constantly blocks a negotiated political solution to the Salvadoran conflict in the hope that its interventionist plan will succeed. They become concrete in the pressures to make the Panamanian process lean toward the right, in the desire to deny the validity of the canal treaties, to permit the use of the Yankee bases of the Southern Command for the aggression against Nicaragua and the Salvadoran revolution. They become concrete by imposing on the Costa Rican Government a two-faced policy that, on one side, expresses neutrality toward the conflicts of the other countries in the area and, on the other, supports the bands of counterrevolutionaries led by the traitor and mercenary, Eden Pastora. They become concrete in the coup maneuvers and renewal of economic and military aid to the Guatemalan military dictatorship and in the constant blocking of the peace initiative that the Contadora Group promotes as an alternative to the crisis and the threat of war in Central America and the risk of an international conflict.

We Guatemalan communists repudiate the constant imperialist provocations against the glorious Cuban revolution and against the thriving revolutionary process in Grenada. With insolent aggressiveness, the government of Ronald Reagan pretends it has the right to attack Cuba whenever it wants. The Yankee imperialists forget the historic lesson of Playa Giron that will be repeated if they try to invade the heroic people of Marti and Fidel.

It is clear to the Central Americans that the main conquest in the region is the glorious Sandinist revolution. Its obligatory defense is a primary task.

Under these conditions, we call to our people to close ranks and make the imperialist plans fail! We call for the defense of the Sandinist revolution, the support and defense of the advance of the heroic Salvadoran revolution and the fight for independence and self-determination of the Central American peoples!

Resistance to the imperialist policy grows in Central America. Sandino's people are willing to fight until death against the imperialist occupation. The Salvadoran people, under the leadership of the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] and its uncontrollable development of its military ability, work wisely to advance toward a political solution to the Salvadoran conflict. The fraternal revolutionary organizations of the peoples of Honduras and Costa Rica are taking firm steps in their fight against internal enemies and imperialist intervention. In our fatherland, we are making strong efforts to consolidate a solid unity process that will guarantee the fight to help defeat the Yankee warmongering plans in Central America and the military dictatorship in our country.

On this anniversary of our party, we salute the struggles fought in South America, Africa, the Middle East and other parts of the world against the interventionist actions of imperialism, against racism, Zionism and fascism and for peace, democracy and social progress.

Our Tasks in the Present Situation

In the tense national and international situation that we face, we feel it is necessary to tell our people the political and military tasks that will open the way to the revolutionary struggle of the Guatemalan people--that is, those that put us in the position to help overcome the temporary ebb of the Guatemalan revolution. These immediate tasks are part of the general strategic effort to shape a political, military and diplomatic force of the revolutionary and democratic movement capable of overthrowing the military dictatorship and its ally--interventionist imperialism--taking power and promoting the tasks of the popular, patriotic and anti-imperialist revolution which opens the way to the construction of socialism in our country.

The PGT, as an integral part of the Guatemalan revolutionary movement, takes a call to its members and the working people to combatively promote these immediate tasks.

1. On the military plane, the effort is aimed at developing the armed forces of the Guatemalan people to overthrow the dictatorship and imperialism. At this time, the PGT's contribution to this common effort of the Guatemalan revolutionaries focuses on the construction and development of the PGT Armed Forces. Our task is to develop the combat ability of our military organization, forge discipline and combat readiness, increase its technical and practical training, structure and consolidate its national and intermediate commands and strengthen its loyalty to the interests of the people and the masses. We Guatemalan communists feel that the construction and development of the PGT Armed Forces is a primary responsibility at this time. Its strengthening and complete incorporation in the battles against the army of the dictatorship is

our contribution to the formation of a single military force of all the Guatemalan people, an indispensable condition for victory.

2. Promotion of revolutionary unity without any exclusions is a decisive task in the revolutionary process. To the degree that we revolutionary forces are capable of coordinating our efforts, cooperating to solve our common problems, reaching agreements to combine all the forces willing to fight the dictatorship from positions consistent with the basic interests of the Guatemalan working people, we will be achieving an important political objective to give greater momentum to the revolution. The PGT repeats its unity position that is based on the objective need to confront the common enemy of all the working people, combining forces and the combat ability of all the detachments in the Guatemalan revolutionary movement.

At this time, we can verify that there has been very significant progress in this area that must be consolidated and developed. The most outstanding and serious initiative now is the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity]. The PGT reaffirms its determination to continue working to fully join this unity process that is opening the best road to construction of a single front of the revolutionary movement.

We express our combative greetings to the URNG and the organizations in it: the EGP [Poor People's Guerrilla Army], the FAR [Rebel Armed Forces], the ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] and the leadership cell of the PGT. We also extend our greetings to the other fraternal revolutionary organizations that fight courageously for the revolution in Guatemala. The impetus of unity is basic at this time for the advance of the revolutionary movement. However, it is necessary to fight for the development of unity among the organized detachments of the popular, worker, peasant and student movement.

We communist militants fight to play a consistent role of unity on all the battlefronts where we develop our action. We are convinced of the need to overcome anti-unity sectarianism and prejudices that have caused serious harm to the revolution and the paramount interests of the Guatemalan working people in the past. We also express our determination to cooperate and develop our unity position with the democratic and patriotic forces that oppose the military dictatorship that oppresses Guatemala, with all the political forces and democratic personages that hoist the banner of national dignity and firmly oppose imperialism's interventionist designs in Central America. The unity of the revolutionary and popular forces is an objective necessity and constitutes a heartfelt demand of the working masses and the people in general. Our commitment to unity is based on that historic necessity and responds to that just popular demand.

3. The tasks of reactivating the struggle of the masses are urgent and have key importance at this time. The concrete circumstances in which it is necessary to develop the work of masses impose illegal, clandestine and semiclandestine forms and methods of struggle. However, this must not eliminate legal and open forms where possible.

/As to the content of the struggle of the masses/, it must focus on the most heartfelt demands of our people on the economic, social and political plane.

Since the military dictatorship is promoting an economic policy and a fiscal reform that faithfully follows the dictates of the IMF, the international financial agency of imperialism, whose reactionary content tries to put all the weight of the crisis on the shoulders of our people, we must fight against this, particularly against all those taxes that basically affect the workers.

a) The fight against the IVA must be accompanied by the demand that /the one who earns more must pay more/. We must demand that the taxes collected be allocated to cover the basic needs of the workers and the people such as housing, medicine, recreation and sports, hospitals, etc. Our people must strongly oppose that the taxes be used to purchase armaments that are later used against them. They must oppose that the taxes serve to enrich the corrupt officials of the dictatorial regime.

b) Along with the fight against the antipopular taxes, our people must fight against the high cost of living and demand wage increases and better working conditions, employment for those who do not have it and land for the peasants.

c) Denunciation of bills like the one on universal indemnization must mobilize broad sectors of urban and rural workers.

d) Our people must also speak out against the new petroleum law since it consummates the act of surrendering our nonrenewable resources.

/On the political plane/, since the counterinsurgent military dictatorship headed by Mejia Victores extends its criminal and repressive policy and state terrorism, our people must mobilize around the most heartfelt demands in this area. They must:

e) Demand the end of terrorist repression by the army, the police and paramilitary bands that continue to sow death and pain among our people and the end of the genocide, massacres and terror in the Indian communities and the rural area.

f) Refuse to join and demand the dissolution of the Civil Self-Defense Patrols since these are formed to a great extent through threats and blackmail and act as true repressive branches of the army and military agents.

g) Demand clarification of the situation of all those arraigned by the special military courts since many have disappeared and others have been tortured and brutally murdered.

h) Demand clarification of the situation of dozens and hundreds of kidnap victims--men and women, workers, peasants, students and professionals--since there is evidence that they have been captured by the repressive corps and taken to secret jails like the old Polytechnical School or barracks that are located throughout the country and demand that the clamor of fathers, mothers and relatives of the missing be heeded.

1) Demand the punishment of those responsible for the acts of genocide and savagery perpetrated against our people and their best sons for years.

In short, our people must demand respect for the right to life, a basic right of man.

On another plane, the Guatemalan working people have the task of leading a broad antidictatorial movement which includes all those democratic and patriotic forces that oppose the military dictatorship that oppresses Guatemala and all the political forces and democratic personages that hoist the banner of national dignity and firmly oppose the reactionary maneuvers of the dictatorship and imperialism's designs in Central America.

Since the dictatorship is again preparing the mechanisms to reestablish the brazen electoral frauds and continuism of the most reactionary and anticommunist forces, we summon our people to loudly reject those maneuvers and condemn them to failure, wholeheartedly joining the process of the popular revolutionary war, the only alternative for the patriotic and popular forces.

4. Facing the critical situation in the region, the Guatemalan popular and democratic forces must mobilize and act against imperialist intervention in Central America. It must be clear to our people that this Yankee intervention is leading to a war in the region with unpredictable consequences not only for Central America but for the world. The Guatemalan people must express their anti-imperialist and libertarian tradition in the tasks that lead to the defeat of Yankee intervention and strongly oppose that our country be involved in a conflict that only interests the Yankee imperialists, the large capitalists and national and foreign exploiters. They must strongly oppose that our territory be used as a base for aggression against the fraternal peoples of Nicaragua and El Salvador. We must repudiate the unfortunate role that the Honduran Government has given that fraternal country and not agree to it in our country.

They must denounce and oppose the Yankee militaristic plans that it attempts to channel through the reactivation of CONDECA [Central American Defense Council].

Our people must speak out for the independence and free self-determination of the Central American peoples.

Active solidarity with the Sandinist popular revolution and the fight of the heroic Salvadoran people must be the task of all the Guatemalan people.

Working People of Guatemala:

For the leaders, cadres, members and soldiers of the PGT, its youth organization--the JPT [Labor Party Youth]--and its armed forces, the best homage to the most courageous leaders of our party fallen in battle, particularly the beloved comrades of the Political Commission of the CC [Central Committee] captured and murdered by the criminal government of Arana Osorio on 26 September 1972 and all the martyrs of the Guatemalan people, will be the determined advance to complete incorporation in the popular revolutionary war.

For the coming 39th anniversary of the glorious revolutionary feat of 20 October 1944 and on the occasion of the 34th anniversary of the PGT, we call to the Guatemalan working people to increase their determination to fight and overthrow the military dictatorship and the imperialist enemy.

Long live the 34th anniversary of the PGT!

Long live the unity of the Guatemalan revolutionary movement!

Long live the heroic struggle of the Salvadoran people!

Against imperialist intervention in Nicaragua!

Down with the genocidal military dictatorship!

"For Guatemala, the revolution and socialism"

[Signed] Political Commission of the CC of the PGT
Guatemala, 28 September 1983

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CSO: 3248/45

OPPORTUNITY SEEN FOR NEW SAMPSON-MAZZOLI STRATEGY

PA230448 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 7 Oct 83 p 5

[Report by Julio Hernandez Lopez and Sara Lovera]

[Text] Commenting on the U.S. decision to set aside the debate on the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill this year, Senator Heladio Ramirez Lopez noted that this action gives Mexican legislators a "great opportunity to redefine" our national strategy concerning the bill and "to better prepare the viewpoints" that will be presented during the next Mexican-U.S. interparliamentary meeting.

The Oaxaca legislator declared that U.S. representatives participating in that meeting might be persuaded to agree that "should a new immigration law be approved in the United States, it must be viewed from a bilateral and even multilateral perspective."

Speaking in his Senate office, Ramirez Lopez nevertheless warned that "we should not rejoice" because the "freeze does not mean that the bill has been eliminated." Indeed, "it continues to be a latent threat." He commented that Democratic leader Thomas O'Neill's remarks to the effect that the bill might be discussed during the ordinary period of sessions of the U.S. Congress "are somewhat contradictory in that the bill could be debated at any moment."

Ramirez Lopez expressed hopes that the Simpson-Mazzoli Bill will not be approved. Should it pass, however, he admitted that this "will obviously affect our good neighborly relations," because "we could not view a law that discriminates and attacks millions of our compatriots as a friendly gesture."

The Oaxaca senator added that "the sudden return of millions of Mexicans would, given our current crisis and existing unemployment, create some social problems."

CSO: 3248/73

SOVIET VIEW OF PSUM'S NATIONAL CONGRESS IN AUGUST

Rural Orientation Noted

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Aug 83 p 4

[Article by N. Ognev]

[Text] Mexico City, 13 [August]. (PRAVDA correspondent). The rather picturesque group of participants of the 2nd Congress of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) that had formed at the entrance to the conference hall caught my attention. Persons of almost the same age, sun-burned, with obviously non-urban faces and large hands that had become used to heavy labor, they looked like so many twins.

Marcial Martinez, Cirilo Virjen, Antonio Cortez, Isidro Miranda--peasants from the state of Nayarit--and their party comrade Jose Viesca--a peasant from the state of Chihuahua--were continuing to discuss the draft version of the party agrarian program, to which today's session had been devoted.

"This question pertains in the most direct way to our party," Jose Viesca stated. "The fact of the matter is that more than half the members of PSUM are peasants and agricultural workers, or are simply rural inhabitants. For example, the Chihuahua delegation consists basically of peasants and rural teachers, and that speaks for itself."

Interrupting one another, my conversational partners tell about the shortcomings of the agrarian reform, the complexities with the sale of produce that had been grown by their hands, and about the shortage of credit and equipment.

Under such conditions the role of the PSUM, which poses as its chief task the struggle for the interests and rights of the masses of the people, is indisputable. The first successes are there to see. According to the delegates from Nayarit, the party and trade union organizations in that state, by their united efforts, achieved an increase in the daily wages for the agricultural workers of the Mexican-American Tabacos Mexicanos company. More than 3,000 rural workers received small plots of land.

The draft version of the party's agrarian program which had been submitted for discussion by the 2nd Congress, as was indicated by the discussion, takes

into consideration the vital interests of the Mexican peasant and reflects his age-old yearnings. The PSUM stands for the just distribution of the land, for expropriation by the state of the large-scale "latifundios," and the transfer of the land to those who cultivate it. In this the PSUM sees the resolution of the peasant's problem, and that path which will enable Mexico to provide itself with agricultural produce, a large amount of which the country is currently forced to import.

Accomplishments Indicated

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Aug 83 p 4

[Article by N. Ognev and V. Fesenko]

[Text] Mexico City, 15 [August]. (PRAVDA and TASS correspondents). People have left the hall where the sessions of the 2nd Congress of the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico (PSUM) were conducted. The work is finished. The delegates discussed the international and domestic situation, and adopted a program of the party's political actions under the presentday conditions, which are characterized by increased pressure exerted by Washington upon Mexico and by the serious financial and economic crisis that the country is experiencing.

The congress demonstrated the increased solidarity of the PSUM, which was created less than two years ago as a result of the fusion of five leftist political organizations.

The resolutions of the forum contain a definition of the trade union and agrarian policy of the PSUM, and set down measures for the creation in the country of a mass youth movement, and for increasing the rate of party work among women with the purpose of increasing their role in political life. Special attention was directed to the need to reinforce the party ranks by drawing on the workers.

Confirming the correctness of the decision concerning unification, the participants in the party's forum worked out the political and organizational measures that have been called upon to accelerate the process of integration in order to convert the PSUM into the revolutionary party of the masses.

The congress elected a new makeup of the Central Committee. Pablo Gomez was reelected general secretary of the PSUM Central Committee.

"The 2nd Congress," Pablo Gomez Alvarez stated to our correspondents in an interview, "was a considerable step forward in the development of our party. It set down specific measures to assure the further consolidation of the party ranks, and defined the party's political line. Therein lies the chief content of the congress. I am convinced," Pablo Gomez said in conclusion, "that the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, within the next few years, will turn into an influential political force."

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CSO: 8044/006

PLURALISM MAIN CONCERN OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DELEGATION

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 27 Sep 83 p 12

[Text] The visit begun yesterday by four Christian Democratic members of the European Parliament, who are here at the invitation of the Nicaraguan Council of State, has been characterized by Willem Vergeer, head of the delegation and a deputy in his own country, Holland, as an information trip.

At about 9:00 am the members of the Nicaraguan Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee received them at Sandino Airport, where Alejandro Rodriguez, on the committee's behalf, warmly welcomed them to the country.

This is the first time that a Christian Democratic delegation from the European Parliament has come to Nicaragua; in addition to Vergeer, the group consists of Horst Langes, a deputy from the Federal Republic of Germany; Marcela Lentz Cornette, a deputy from Luxembourg; Hans Ulrich Reh, also from FRG, as counselor; and Pietro Adonnino, an Italian deputy.

In responding to Representative Rodriguez' official greeting, Vergeer said, among other things, that they had been in Cuba and that they were in the region because the Central American conflict caused them great concern and they had come, above all, "to call for a peaceful solution in the area."

To Learn About Nicaragua

When this newspaper approached the head of the delegation, the latter acknowledged that they had come 4 years after the victory of the revolution but, he said, this could be explained by the demands imposed by their extensive relations with countries on other continents and added that they were really well informed about events in the region.

He said unambiguously that they remain skeptical concerning Nicaragua's political development but had come to see for themselves, as they could not rely solely on the information they received by cable.

When asked his opinion of the aggression being committed by the Reagan administration against our country, which impeded the normal political and economic development to which he had referred in his previous answer, he gave a reply that had more form than substance, saying, "We reject all aggression, from wherever it may come."

He said that they are interested in learning about the development of pluralism, freedom of the press and other subjects, and therefore will meet with various political groups and individuals, including the Coordinator Sacasa, the FPR [Revolutionary Popular Front], Msgr Obando, bishop of Managua, government officials and the Revolutionary Junta itself.

Meeting With the Council of State

In the afternoon, the Christian Democratic delegation met with the governing board of the Council of State, headed by its president, Comandante Carlos Nunez.

Participating in the talks were representatives of the Popular Social Christian Party and PLI [Independent Liberal], National Council of Higher Education and foreign affairs experts.

Comandante Nunez gave the European parliamentarians a warm welcome and, while urging them to take advantage of the opportunity to find out what is happening in Nicaragua, called upon them "to fight to stop the escalating aggression that the United States administration has launched against our country."

The head of the delegation stressed that, with respect to the conversations they have had, the dialogue with the governing board of the Council of State will be considered as one more element contributing to their understanding of the true Nicaraguan situation.

Julio Ramon Garcia Vilchez, a member of the Social Christian Party and its representative on the Council of State, was among those welcoming the Christian Democratic delegation yesterday morning; one of the delegation's meetings on the first day of the visit yesterday was with the Social Christians.

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BORGE'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL CALLED SUCCESSFUL

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 27 Sep 83 p 12

[Text] Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares yesterday declared his solidarity with the Sandinist revolution and the peace efforts of the Contadora Group.

In a meeting with Comandante Tomas Borge, who is a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN], the Portuguese Prime Minister declared that his party and government had never supported the counterrevolutionary Pastora and will not do so in the future.

Comandante Borge, Nicaraguan minister of the interior, is making a 19-hour visit to this capital (Lisbon) as a special guest of Prime Minister Soares.

After the talks between Soares and Borge, the Portuguese leader gave a dinner for the Nicaraguan delegation; among those present were Portuguese Minister of the Interior Manuel Alegre, who is one of the Socialist Party's principal leaders, former Minister of the Interior and Social Democratic Party leader Langelito Correia and Alfonso Riu Mateo, the Socialist Party's chief of international relations.

As a result of the talks, it was determined that the two governments would take immediate steps to establish diplomatic and commercial relations between the two countries at the highest level.

The conversation, as it was described by a member of the Nicaraguan delegation, was a frank and open one between friends, in which various subjects of interest to the two parties were discussed in plain language.

Prime Minister Soares made special mention of Comandante Borge's reputation as an old underground fighter and the role he played in the Nicaraguan revolution and recalled that he had himself fought against Fascism in the decade of the 1940s.

In a departure from custom, Prime Minister Soares accompanied the Nicaraguan delegation as it visited the principal points of interest in the Portuguese capital.

In a departure from custom, Prime Minister Soares accompanied the Nicaraguan delegation as it visited the principal points of interest in the Portuguese capital.

The Portuguese Prime Minister also invited the Sandinist Front to be present as a special guest at the Socialist Party Congress which opens next Friday; the Nicaraguan ambassador in Spain, Orlando Castillo, has been designated as the FSLN representative at the event.

Comandante Borge is leaving today (Tuesday) for Athens, where he will meet with Greek Prime Minister George Papandreu. Previously, the Nicaraguan leader had visited France and Spain, in which countries he met with the principal political leaders, including French Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy and the head of the Spanish Government, Felipe Gonzalez

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PLI LEADER COMMENTS ON ALLEGED RIFT WITH FSLN

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 23 Sep 83 p 5

[Text] "The Independent Liberal Party [PLI] is part of a coalition called the 'Revolutionary Patriotic Front' [FPR], but membership in this coalition does not affect all members in all respects; it is a coalition based on agreement on a minimum of points," Dr Orlando Quinonez Torres, the PLI member on the Council of State, told LA PRENSA yesterday when asked about a reported rift within this coalition.

In view of the insistent rumor that the political partnership between the PLI and FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] through the FPR is about to break down, an editor of LA PRENSA interviewed Dr Quinonez Torres, and the following dialogue took place:

[Question] In political circles, there is persistent comment that the positions recently taken by the PLI in the Council of State, for example, not taking part in the discussion of the Military Service Law, are an indication that the partnership between the PLI and FSLN is breaking down, and public opinion supports such comment. As the PLI representative, what can you tell us?

[Answer] If public opinion and the political parties really think that, within the FPR, the PLI and FSLN are strongly at odds, I cannot deceive them, but the truth is that we are not at odds, nor is the partnership breaking down rather, we have simply not been able to coordinate our respective political positions within the Patriotic Front.

And Quinonez added:

The day that the draft Military Service Law was going to be discussed, and when the legal opinion on it had already been drafted, my party sent a letter to the presidency of the Council of State requesting postponement of the discussion on the draft law, because we thought that it ought to be discussed in greater detail, since it contained certain provisions with which we disagreed, and we also wanted to improve the wording of the document, as well as to make a series of changes that would make the law easier to understand, but unfortunately, we did not achieve our purposes.

Afterwards, he said: "This was the reason my party was motivated to order me not to attend the meetings of the Council of State, and this was interpreted in another way, which is a shame. Nevertheless, my party had its reasons for not participating in these discussions; it was a decision made within the scope of the autonomy we enjoy."

[Question] No representative of the PLI or of the other parties that did not participate in the discussion of the Military Service Law has been included in the committee that will draw up a draft electoral law or in the committee that will work on the Law on Parties bylaws. Do you consider this a reprisal on the part of the FSLN?

[Answer] We do not think so; we are a party that has been in existence for 40 years, we are mature men, we do not believe that this is a reprisal. The PLI, which has middle class roots, contains professional men who have distinguished themselves by their integrity and professionalism and we do not consider this as a reprisal. We think it was a decision taken by the presidency of the Council of State itself that may have been correct or incorrect; we are liberals and are ready to participate whenever we are called upon to do so, but if they do not call upon us, it is all the same.

[Question] And what can you tell us about the partnership?

[Answer] Within the PLI, there is no disposition to break with the FPR, and I do not know why there is this speculation. The PLI's positions are the same as in the past, not just since the victory of the revolution but even before.

Our party has always taken an independent line; our policies are not influenced by any other political organization whether belonging to the majority or the minority. The party always keeps in mind its ideology, its political programs, its principles and its objectives, which are defined by its ideological criteria.

We have to watch to see that a representative democracy and political pluralism exist, that the government follows a line of true nonalignment and nonconfrontation, that there is a mixed economy and that the rights of the people are respected, because we are defenders of human rights in Nicaragua, we are defenders of liberal, progressive ideas and have a progressive social policy; the PLI is a leader in Latin America among those with modern liberal principles.

The PLI is part of the FPR coalition, but membership in this coalition does not affect all members in all respects; within it are the Socialist Party, which is a Marxist-Leninist party, the Popular Social Christian Party, which follows a Christian line, the FSLN, which follows a revolutionary line but has not altogether defined its true ideology, and ourselves, who are also revolutionaries. The situation is that the coalition is based on agreement on a minimum of points, nothing more; thus, the PLI leader Orlando Quinonez Torres concluded his remarks.

BRIEFS

DPRK DONATION--The DPRK has donated 2,000 tons of white corn, 1,000 tons of urea, 5,000 metric tons of steel, 50,000 picks, and 50,000 shovels to Nicaragua. These goods will be unloaded today in the port of Corinto. [Summary] [PA191219 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 Oct 83 PA]

DPRK DELEGATION ARRIVES--A DPRK Government delegation headed by Foreign Trade Minister Chong-kun Choe arrived here yesterday to finalize details of cooperation agreements amounting to \$30 million. The Korean delegation will be in the country for 2 weeks. During that time, it will meet with revolutionary leaders and state officials. [Excerpts] [Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Oct 83 PA]

NEW AID ORGANIZATION--The Nicaraguan agencies which channel international aid have formed a national coordinating board of non-governmental organizations. This measure was taken in view of the aggression being faced by Nicaragua. The board will include the following secular, Catholic, and Evangelical organizations: The Ecumenical Board [Eje Ecumenico], the Antonio Valdivieso Center, the John XXIII Institute, CEPAD [Evangelical Committee for Development], the Multiple Service Center [Central de Servicios Multiples], CEPA [Agricultural Education and Advancement Center], and the Augusto Cesar Sandino Foundation. These groups have reaffirmed their support of the national emergency committee and its services to the Nicaraguan people. The primary task of the new board will be to coordinate efforts, seek aid from similar bodies abroad, develop aid programs, and exchange experience with other organizations. [Summary] [PA162211 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 15 Oct 83 PA]

LIBYAN DONATION--Doctor Mohamed Faraj Malhuf, a professor from the Libyan al-Fatah University, has presented a check to Vicente Baca, director of the School of Journalism. The donation, in the amount of 25,000 cordobas, was made by the Office of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya. [Summary] [PA162226 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 9 Oct 83 p 4 PA]

SWEDISH AID--Managua, 15 Oct (AFP)--The Swedish Government has offered technical aid to repair the Puerto Sandino oil pipeline and to make a study of the losses suffered during the fire in the Corinto fuel tanks. [Excerpt] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2150 GMT 15 Oct 83 PA]

FRENCH TELEPHONE EXCHANGE--Enrique Schmidt, minister-director of TELCOR [Telecommunications and Postal Services Institute] and Georgio Farelli, representative of the French company (?SIP Alcatel), have signed an agreement for the purchase of an electronic telephone exchange. The exchange--which will cost \$4 million--will have 10,000 lines, and will be the first of its kind in Nicaragua. [Text] [PA161424 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Oct 83 PA]

AMNLAE ASKS FOR ARMS--The Executive Committee of the Luisa Amanda Espinoza Nicaraguan Women's Association [AMNLAE] asked the revolutionary government to deliver weapons to all of its members, who are anxious to participate in the defense of the revolution. The request was made in a communique condemning the criminal sabotage at Corinto Port. [Excerpt] [Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 13 Oct 83 PA]

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PEOPLE'S PARTY LEADER PRAISES MARX AT CONFERENCE IN GDR

East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 14 Apr 83 pp 9-10

[Address by Ruben Dario Souza, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Panama]

[Text] Dear Comrades:

In the name of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Panama and all the communists in our country we thank you for the brotherly invitation of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany to participate in the International Scientific Conference in honor of the 100th anniversary of Karl Marx' death, dedicated to the power and the influence of his personality and his works on the fundamental problems of our time.

As Panama's communists we are obligated to participate in this conference, because the ideological, political and moral origin of our struggle for democracy, national liberation, socialism and peace can be found in the works of Karl Marx. We are the heirs of this great and extraordinary man who left to us a specific guide for the victory of the people and the revolutionary cause of the proletariat.

We have come to this meeting to join all the heirs of Marx who have gathered here from every part of the world and many different environments to relate our successes and experiences, to demonstrate the fact that the work of Karl Marx has become the real, leading force of progress for mankind and the decisive factor in world events. At this conference we jointly represent the victorious socialism as the social world system, the powerful democratic struggle of the international labor class, the victorious national liberation movements and those forces that are still engaged in the struggle for this goal, the commandos for the defense of world peace. In other words, this conference is living proof of the fact that the theory of scientific socialism established by Karl Marx and his close coworker Friedrich Engels has become a material force of world-historical significance.

When the most prominent communists and revolutionary fighters of our epoch meet here to strike the balance of the struggles of a century on the road prescribed by Marx, and, to be sure, it is taking place here in the democratic fatherland where the flags of the victorious socialism are flying and the dawn of communism

is already sending its rays, it is the best way of honoring the exemplary personality of the father of the proletarian revolution and the founder of scientific socialism. It also signifies an appreciation of his faithful followers in this country, the German labor class and in particular the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, as well as the international proletariat, which proved through its struggles and successes how great and true Marxism is.

With his dialectical materialism and scientific socialism Karl Marx initiated the conscious and organized struggle of the labor class, the biggest changing force in the history of human society. It improved the world of the 20th century and created the victorious socialist system. Since it became a fait accompli, society changed as a result. Based on the fundamental law of capitalism discovered by Marx, the basic historic tendency of our epoch is the transition to socialism and the disappearance of capitalism and the entire system of exploitation of labor.

In practice, the existence of socialism proved the superiority of this system over capitalism. The socialist system, in accordance with Marx predictions, is the road of true progress. The world of real socialism, the strongest bulwark of which is the USSR where the ideas of Marx were first realized, is the major force of the struggle against the exploitation of man by man, against national oppression, for democracy, material well-being of the people and for world peace; in other words, tasks that signify the progress of mankind. The movement, at the head of which is the socialist world, is the most influential force of our epoch and the vanguard of social development. This fact opened up the real possibility that an ever-increasing number of countries from every part of the world and every stage of the social struggle will embark on the road to socialism.

The socialist trend of the present is proof that the labor class is increasing its political leadership role, consolidating its unity and giving expression in its program to the will to fight felt by millions and millions of workers all over the world. Under these circumstances the international labor class created the necessary factors to defeat imperialism and its policies on all the levels of the social struggle of our epoch. The movement of the international labor class and its socialist system--guided by Marx discoveries--gained sufficient power to provide an objective opportunity to prevent a world war and blunt one of the unavoidable weapons of the existence of imperialism.

Under these circumstances, the battle for the defense of peace assumed the concrete form of proposals for the peaceful coexistence of states of various social orders and of powerful mass actions against the armament madness and the nuclear arms race. With this in mind, the USSR--the vanguard in the struggle for peace--adopted in its peace program the original interests of the international proletariat and the longing for peace among the nations.

Comrades:

The science which Marx left us is a living science, it is directed at life and supported by its development. The revolutionaries of today who continue his work are applying this science to their respective countries and to the multiplicity of social circumstances. By doing so, revolutionaries are enriching

Marxism and their own ability to discover new things, because it is a creative science. The most prominent and brilliant follower was Vladimir Ilich Lenin, creator of the theory and tactic of the proletarian revolution in the epoch of imperialism and leader of the first victorious socialist revolution in the world. Lenin supplied the example for the theory that creative work based on a Marxist foundation does not make Marxism obsolete but, on the contrary, furthers, expands and deepens its development to encompass and guide the revolutions of the present. Leninism prevented Marxism from being nothing but an idea, a policy pursued by right- and leftwing opportunists. It became the science of our revolutions today. Marxism-Leninism handed to the proletariat the tools for playing its historical role and fighting victoriously for communism and against capitalism--now, however, under the conditions of capitalism --as taught by Marx.

In the history of Marxism-Leninism there have been constant attempts to negate its validity and actuality. Every author, every political and ideological trend that undertook attempts of this nature was only short-lived and was passed over by life. Marxism-Leninism, on the other hand, is shining more brightly today than ever before in the concrete reality of our time, while those who today are again labeling Marxism-Leninism obsolete will suffer the same fate as their predecessors did.

We, the Panamanian communists, have become a political force which influences the struggle for Panama's liberation, the struggle for democracy, the leading role of which has become strong in the labor class and among workers in general and it continues to grow. Led by Marxism-Leninism and reflecting our peculiarities, we developed the theory of the Panamanian revolution, its program, its strategy and tactic. Our work is intensifying and our efforts are gradually growing into a massive force and finding expression in the anti-colonial, anti-imperialist, anti-oligarchical struggle, the struggle for peace and international solidarity in which our people is engaged. We are one of many examples of the general historical character, the creative force and the irrefutable legitimacy of Marxism-Leninism.

At the present our country is deeply affected by the general crisis of capitalism and the aggressive and bellicose policies of the Reagan government. The yankee imperialism wants to circumvent the Torrijos-Carter agreement for the step-by-step decolonialization of our country and replace the current government with a more compliant one, which will support and conceal the Reagan government's intervention in Central America and the Caribbean, which serves the imperialist interests in Panama and stands behind the U.S. policies of war and world domination.

Our party is primarily concerned with counteracting this intention of imperialism. For that reason we are intensifying our struggle for the completion of decolonialization, for the removal of any kind of dependency, against the restoration of oligarchy, for the development of the progressive democracy and against the misuse of our country as a basis for aggression against Cuba and Nicaragua, as a base for the intervention in El Salvador and Guatemala. At the present we are making great efforts to make sure that our people grant support and solidarity to the revolutionaries and guerilla fighters of Central America.

An important goal for us is the creation of an alliance of democratic and progressive forces for the 1984 elections. Our goal is a guarantee that the result of these elections will confirm the anti-imperialist transformation process which was introduced by the late General Torrijos.

The intensification of the class struggle in Panama is taking place within the framework of the deepening imperialist crisis in Latin America and finds expression in various forms.

In this struggle we are following the guidelines of the Marxist-Leninist ideology. As is the case on other continents, this ideology is also the most influential force of progress in our part of the world. The power of these ideas is especially evident in the liberation struggle in Central America and it is affecting the entire American continent. Consequently, imperialism and its lackeys are carrying to extremes their anticommunism, especially anti-Sovietism and hostilities against the socialist revolution in Cuba.

Comrades:

We have the privilege of experiencing glorious days in which the ideals of Marx and Lenin are becoming reality through the deeds of all revolutionaries in the world for the welfare of mankind. The political and moral force we represent has never been as extensive as it is today. We have the power to defeat capitalism with its wars and its poverty. The key is unity, particularly the unity of the international communist movement, as we were taught by the founders of scientific socialism. Our party is aware of this reality.

It will continue on its present path, fighting against the outbreak of a world war at the side of the great party of Lenin, the CPSU, and all brother parties. It will actively support all efforts to assure the victory of social progress everywhere in the world, particularly in our country. It will fight for the final defeat of capitalism and for the victory of socialism everywhere on our planet.

Eternal glory to the memory of Karl Marx!

Long live Marxism-Leninism!

Long live the German labor class!

Long live the international proletariat!

Thank you very much.

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